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PLUS-SIZE CELEBRITIES ARE BOTH ADORED AND CRITICIZED PAGE 20

TORONTO metro®
Tuesday, March 6, 2012
News worth sharing.
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Ford loyalists voted off TTC commission

Council decision.
Karen Stintz to carry on as chair of transit board

City council has delivered another blow to Mayor Rob Ford's underground transit ambitions — and his mayoralty in general — by rejecting a bid to wrest control of the TTC board away from politicians.

But with another key transit vote expected March 21, it's doubtful a new transit board that will eventually include some private citizens will buy much peace on the explosive TTC file.

In the latest dramatic skirmish in Toronto's transit wars, five Ford loyalists who recently engineered the firing of TTC chief general manager Gary Webster lost their seats on the commission. Two who did not — councillors John Parker and Peter Milczyn — were retained, along with Maria Augimeri and chair Karen Stintz.

Citizen members

- The four citizen members, to be paid a $5,000 annual honorarium plus $450 per monthly meeting, are to be added by the end of October.

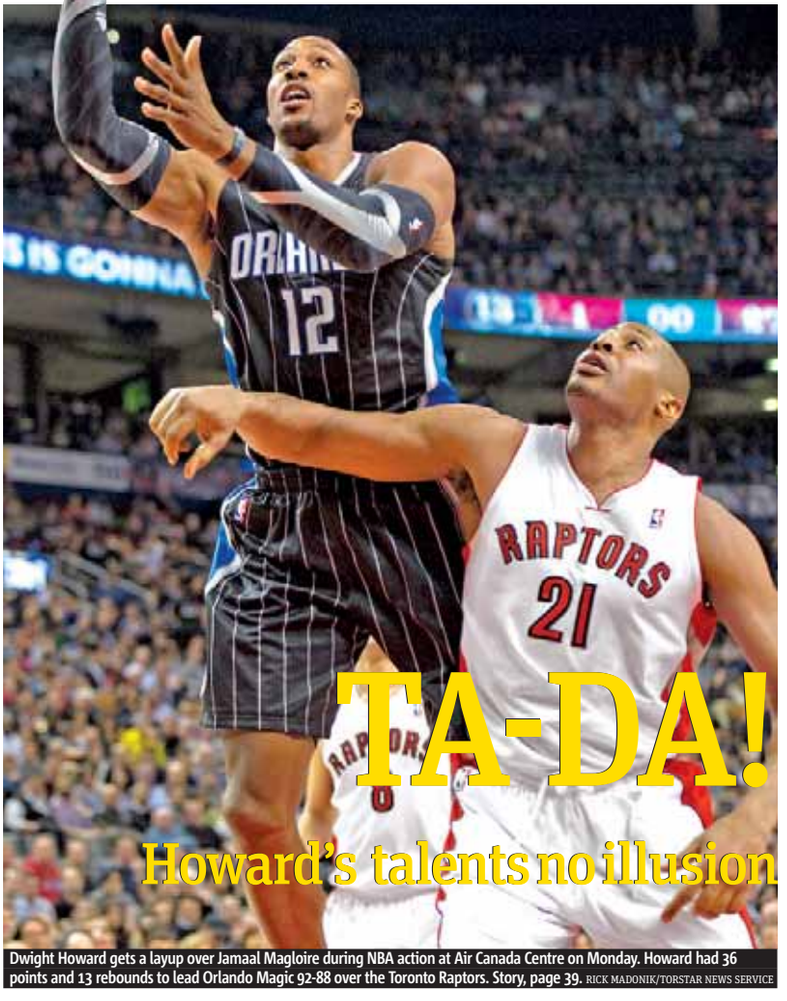
New faces are Scarborough councillors Raymond Cho and Glenn De Baeremaeker, and Josh Colle.

Ford, who declined to speak to reporters after the vote, had advocated for a TTC board made up solely of citizens who could offer expertise in helping to run the transit system.

But council adopted Stintz's proposal to expand the commission from nine councillors to an 11-member body with seven councillors plus four citizen members.

In a separate vote, council named Stintz to carry on as chair, giving her 24 votes to 19 votes cast for Milczyn.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



TA-DA!

Howard's talents no illusion

Dwight Howard gets a layup over Jamaal Magloire during NBA action at Air Canada Centre on Monday. Howard had 36 points and 13 rebounds to lead Orlando Magic 92-88 over the Toronto Raptors. Story, page 39. RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Brutal killing of child described in court

Trial begins for accused in the murder of eight-year-old Tori Stafford PAGE 6

Republicans prepare for Super Tuesday

Presidential candidate Mitt Romney readies for biggest battle yet PAGES 10-11

Maple Leafs have a new game plan

New coach puts focus on improving defence ; wants to play more conservatively PAGE 38

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Wife accused of murder after body found in home

Scarborough. Charge upgraded as police investigation continues

A woman who was charged last week with indignity to a dead body has now been charged with first-degree murder.

Last Wednesday, police were called to a Scarborough home on Ridgecrest Drive and reportedly discovered a man's body rolled up in a blanket inside the basement apartment. The death was considered suspicious and Toronto woman Xiu Jin Teng, 36, was arrested.

The indignity charge was upgraded to murder on Monday and the victim was identified as Dong Huang, 40.

An autopsy has been conducted but police have not released the cause of death.

Little is known about Huang, and a next-door neighbour described him as a "mysterious-looking character" who kept to himself and lived alone.

Huang and Teng were a married couple from China, according to Toronto homicide Det.-Sgt. Brian Borg. They were both employed in the financial-services sector.

Borg said the couple has a child, who is now under the care of the Children's Aid Society.

The neighbour was surprised to see an unfamiliar woman and a young child leaving the apartment days before the murder.

The victim lived on a quiet residential street near Warden Avenue and Huntingwood Drive. Neighbours told the Toronto Star they were shocked when they learned of the death.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Public assistance

- **Tips.** Investigators are asking anyone who interacted with the accused during the month of February to contact police.

An officer with the Toronto police's forensic investigation services brings cardboard boxes into the basement of 15 Ridgecrest Dr., where the lifeless body of Dong Huang, 40, was discovered last week. Xiu Jin Teng, 36, has been charged with first-degree murder in connection with the death. JENNIFER YANG/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Firefighter pleads not guilty in fatal crash

Jarrett Johns, a Toronto firefighter charged with failing to stop at a traffic light in a collision that resulted in the death of mother Kimberley Schulz, leaves court on Monday during the first day of his trial. LAURA STONE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A firefighter has pleaded not guilty to running a red light in a collision that killed a Mississauga woman a year ago, though it's still not clear what colour the traffic light was at the time of the deadly accident.

Jarrett Johns, 36, of Toronto, was charged under the Highway Traffic Act after the fire truck he was driving slammed into a car driven by Kimberley Schulz on March 6, 2011.

Schulz, 42, died instantly in the crash, which occurred as the fire crew was en route to another collision.

Her friends and family filled several benches in the Ontario Court of Justice in Mississauga Monday for the first day of the trial. Arguments are expected to last the rest of the week.

The court heard from firefighters and drivers who witnessed the crash. There were conflicts in their testimony as to who had the right of way.

Capt. Tom Dejak, who was in the passenger's seat of the fire truck, said they were heading west on Britannia Road West and saw a car driving south toward the intersection of Britannia and Rodeo Drive. The truck's lights and sirens were on, he said.

The light was green when they approached it, he said, but he didn't see its colour while the truck was turning.

Alexandra Dotto, who was driving eastbound on Britannia in the left-turn lane, said she remembered the light being red and then turning green for her. She also said she believed the fire truck's sirens were not on and relayed her concerns to a 911 operator. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

1 NEWS

News in brief

Putin Protest

An attempt by Vladimir Putin's foes to protest his presidential election victory by occupying a Moscow square ended with riot police quickly dispersing and detaining hundreds of demonstrators. Watch at metronews.ca/video

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Westoll's chimp story win Charles Taylor Prize

Andrew Westoll shows off his Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction for his book, The Chimps of Fauna Sanctuary: A Canadian Story of Resilience and Recovery, in Toronto on Monday. The Torontonian's book details the 10 weeks he spent at a southwestern Quebec facility, which houses chimps who are retired from biomedical research. Some had been subjected to experimental surgeries and injected with HIV and hepatitis.

MICHELLE SIU/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Province's teachers ask McGuinty for emergency talks

Labour negotiations. Teachers' unions in discussion with province over wages and other issues.

Dalton McGuinty

PATRICK DOYLE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Online appeal

- Both the premier and Education Minister Broten have said they need the help of teachers to keep popular — and pricey — initiatives like full-day kindergarten and small class sizes while eliminating a $16 billion deficit.
- The premier even posted a video to YouTube.

Ontario's teachers' unions have banded together to ask for an emergency meeting with Premier Dalton McGuinty after he called for a wage freeze and an end to payouts for unused sick days.

The unions wrote to McGuinty late last week, saying they want to talk about the process and timelines of the provincial-level talks currently under way, as well as who the government has at the table.

The Liberal government had hoped to wrap up negotiations in a couple of weeks, much faster than in the past — by mid-March and in time for its spring budget.

Kevin O'Dwyer, of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association, confirmed a letter was sent Thursday evening, and said it was not about the content of the province's offer, but the short timeline and the process.

He also said it "was not helpful" that the premier and Education Minister Laurel Broten had been speaking to reporters about proposals, "theirs in particular … they should be respectful of that process."

All teacher unions are in talks with the province on wages and other big-ticket items, with the exception of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario, which walked away last week, saying it was disgusted at the government's proposal.

Hinting at future labour unrest, Ken Coran said there needs to be "a process that will guarantee the peace and stability that students deserve."

A spokesperson for McGuinty said in an email that "we're encouraging all sides to get back to the table."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

One union's response

"We are disappointed that the Premier, instead of focusing on dialogue and problem-solving, has seemingly tried to provoke confrontation."

Ken Coran, president of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, in a statement on the union's website.

Not guilty verdict in dead boy's bullying case

Family members of an 11-year-old boy who killed himself in a case that garnered widespread attention about bullying said Monday they were content despite the acquittal of a teen charged with robbing and assaulting him.

In finding the 13-year-old accused not guilty, Justice Mary Teresa Devlin said she had doubts about the identity of Mitchell Wilson's attacker.

"I believe they followed the law right to the letter (and) I don't think Mitchell would've liked to have seen the law bent for his own benefit," his father Craig Wilson said outside court.

Craig Wilson, bullying victim Mitchell Wilson's father.

KATE ALLEN/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"For that reason, I think we walked out respectfully with our heads held high."

Mitchell, who suffered from muscular dystrophy, killed himself last September, after being subpoenaed to testify in the case.

His family said he was terrified at the prospect of facing the youth accused of slamming his face into the sidewalk, chipping his teeth, and stealing his iPhone in Pickering, Ont., in November 2010.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Crime

Man charged in sexual assault

A man is facing seven charges after a sexual assault investigation in Toronto's west end.

Police say a man was reported prowling around the Queen Street West and Lansdowne Avenue area during the evening hours earlier this month.

It is alleged that the man approached six homes and peered through the windows.

It's also alleged that a man broke into a home on Saturday night and sexually assaulted a woman who was asleep in her bedroom.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Costly blaze. Officials probe fire at Canada Border Services Agency warehouse

A Mississauga warehouse was still smouldering Monday as investigators used an excavator to pull off a collapsed roof to get inside and uncover the cause of a fire that caused $1 million in damage.

Initial reports suggested the fire at the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) bonded warehouse on Elmbank Rd. near Highway 427 was sparked when an employee brought his private vehicle into the building to charge it after the battery died.

Mississauga fire platoon Chief Mike Head said that has yet to be officially confirmed and they were pulling the building apart with an excavator to investigate.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Packages

- The privately owned warehouse was used by the CBSA to hold packages waiting to be cleared by customs.
- The warehouse was destroyed, officials said.

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Royal Canadian Mint

Mint marks Titanic sinking with silver coin

The Royal Canadian Mint has unveiled a commemorative silver coin to mark the centennial of the Titanic sinking. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Synagogues

2nd man pleads not guilty in attacks

A second man charged in a series of attacks on New Jersey synagogues, which included the January firebombing of a house of worship where a rabbi and several family members were sleeping, pleaded not guilty on Monday.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Facebook Case

Man gets more lawyers for lawsuit

An upstate New York man who says he's entitled to half ownership of Facebook has added five attorneys to his legal team.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Transport critic

Opposition attacks safety of Ornge choppers

Pilots, paramedics and patients should be worried about the safety of helicopters used by Ornge, Ontario's air-ambulance system, Tory transport critic Frank Klees said Monday.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Foreign Affairs

Canada closing embassy in Syria

Canada is closing its embassy in Damascus. Foreign Affairs says all Canadian diplomats have now left Syria.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Court hears graphic details in Tori Stafford case

Evidence. Jury warned they would have to listen to disturbing evidence in course of trial

Rodney Stafford, father of Victoria Stafford, speaks to reporters on Monday outside the courthouse in London, Ont. GEOFF ROBINS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The horrifying alleged story of eight-year-old Victoria Stafford's last hours, after she was snatched outside her school and before her body was left under a pile of rocks far from home, was laid out in a London, Ont., court Monday.

Tori was abducted by Michael Rafferty and Terri-Lynne McClintic, sexually assaulted and brutally beaten to death on April 8, 2009, Crown Attorney Kevin Gowdey told the jury on the first day of Rafferty's trial. McClintic, 21, has already pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and is serving a life sentence.

Rafferty has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder, sexual assault causing bodily harm and kidnapping.

The jury was warned that over the course of the trial, expected to last two and a half months, they will hear graphic and disturbing evidence. A pathologist will testify that Tori died from multiple blows to her head with a hammer. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blunt impacts

- **Lacerated.** Blunt impacts to Tori Stafford's body also lacerated her liver and fractured her ribs, Crown Attorney Kevin Gowdey said.
- **Remains.** Her remains, not discovered for 103 days, were found naked from the waist down, clothed only in a Hannah Montana T-shirt.
- **Evidence.** Superior Court Judge Thomas Heeney gave his instructions to the jury Monday morning, telling the nine women and three men there will be evidence presented "that many people would consider to be graphic and disturbing."
- **Opening statement.** He also cautioned them that the Crown's opening statement should not be taken as evidence.
- **Accused killer.** Outside court earlier Monday, Tori's father, Rodney Stafford, said it's hard for him to be in the same room as the man accused of killing his daughter, and he hopes Tori's name will be remembered more than the man in the prisoner's dock.

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Puerto Vallarta 7 Nights 4-Star — $477
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Riot police arrest hundreds in anti-Putin demonstration

Russian election. Opposition vows to stage more protests against alleged ballot fraud

An attempt by Vladimir Putin's foes to protest his presidential-election victory by occupying a Moscow square ended with riot police quickly dispersing and detaining hundreds of demonstrators — a stark reminder of the challenges faced by Russia's opposition.

Monday's crackdown could fuel opposition anger and bring even bigger protests of Putin's 12 years in power and election to another six, but it also underlined the authorities' readiness to use force to crush such demonstrations.

The rally marked a change of tactics for the opposition. Alexei Navalny, one of the most charismatic protest leaders, was the first to suggest that supporters remain on Moscow's streets and squares to turn up the heat on Putin.

For Putin, the opposition move raised the spectre of the 2004 Orange Revolution in Ukraine, where demonstrators camped on Kyiv's main square in massive protests that forced officials to throw out a fraud-tainted election victory by the Kremlin-backed candidate.

The government's response Monday was fast and decisive. Lines of officers in full riot gear marched into tree-lined Pushkin Square and forced protesters into police buses. About 250 people were detained, police said.

The crackdown followed a rally that drew about 20,000 people angry over reports of widespread violations in Sunday's voting. But after Monday's massive show of force, the urban middle-class forming the core of the protests could be more reluctant to attend future demonstrations.

Navalny — who sought to electrify the crowd with a passionate call of "We are the power!" — was among those detained, along with opposition leader Sergei Udaltsov. Both were released from police custody a few hours later.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police officers detain an opposition activist in St. Petersburg on Monday during a demonstration against vote rigging in Sunday's Russian presidential election. DMITRY LOVETSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Webcam for 'viewing party': Witness

Trial. U.S. student jumped to his death after video of him with a man surfaced

A former Rutgers University student accused of using a webcam to spy on his roommate's intimate encounter with another man allegedly told his friends he was hosting a "viewing party" with beer and rum to watch the dorm-room liaison, a high school friend testified Monday.

The revelation came in testimony from Michelle Huang, a Cornell University student who says Dharun Ravi told her about it in a text message on Sept. 21, 2010.

Ravi, 20, is on trial for 15 criminal counts, including invasion of privacy, bias intimidation and several charges accusing him of trying to cover his tracks. Bias intimidation is a hate crime punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

The roommate, Tyler Clementi, jumped to his death from the George Washington Bridge between New York and the state of New Jersey on Sept. 22, 2010. Since then, the case has sparked a national conversation about the difficulties faced by young gays.

Prosecutors are trying to prove that Ravi intentionally tried to humiliate Clementi. Huang testified that Ravi urged her to video-chat him so she could see the webcam footage.

"Do it for real," Ravi wrote in a text that was shown to jurors. "I have it pointed at his bed."

People were planning a "viewing party with a bottle of Bacardi and beer" to watch the web stream that night, Huang said. It was the first mention of a planned party in the trial, which started its seventh day of testimony on Monday.

Huang later testified that after Clementi had killed himself, Ravi texted her that the talk of a viewing party was a joke.

Witnesses have said the webcam wasn't working that night.

Ravi isn't charged in Clementi's death, and the judge has been cautious about how the suicide would come into the trial.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Other news

- **Family.** There is one constant reminder in the courtroom of the death. Clementi's parents and other relatives sat through the first six days of the trial.
- **Legacy.** The family has set up a foundation to honour Clementi, and one of its main goals is suicide prevention.

Dharun Ravi is accused of using a webcam to spy on his roommate's intimate encounter with another man. The roommate jumped to his death, and the case has sparked a conversation about the difficulties faced by young homosexuals. JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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Romney riding high into Super Tuesday

Republican primary. The race to see which presidential candidate will take on Obama in November heads for a 10-state showdown

It's the single biggest day of the Republican presidential campaign — or, as Newt Gingrich's political action committee put it on Monday, the event that could represent "life or death to America as we know and love it."

Super Tuesday is looming as Republican primary voters in 10 states, including the delegate-rich crown jewels of Georgia and Ohio, prepare to head to the polls to decide which candidate they want to take on U.S. President Barack Obama in November's presidential election.

Stakes are as high as they've ever been during this roller-coaster ride of a presidential race.

Front-runner Mitt Romney needs to win Ohio to clear a significant hurdle in his goal to lock up the nomination. Rick Santorum is desperate for victory in Ohio, too, if he has any hopes of salvaging his faltering campaign and regaining some momentum among primary voters.

Gingrich has already suggested if he fails to win big in Georgia, where he served as a U.S. congressman for two decades, his bid for the nomination is all but done. Ron Paul, meantime, hopes to watch at least one of his rivals drop out as he continues to quietly rack up delegates.

Never shy about the use of hyperbole in its campaign literature, Gingrich's so-called super PAC sent out an email on Monday that opened with this ominous warning: "Super Tuesday could absolutely mean life or death to America as we know and love it."

It urged voters to "rally today. America as we know and love it will survive. Your children and grandchildren will thank you."

Gingrich, incidentally, recently told a televised debate that the best word to describe him was "cheerful."

Romney, meantime, has a head of steam as he makes a play for Super Tuesday's 419 delegates.

The former Massachusetts governor picked up two endorsements from prominent Republicans over the weekend. Sen. Tom Coburn of Oklahoma and House majority leader Eric Cantor, a Tea Party darling, threw their support behind Romney.

Coburn's Oklahoma and Cantor's Virginia are among the 10 Super Tuesday states. The others are Ohio, Georgia, Tennessee, Vermont, Massachusetts, Idaho, North Dakota and Alaska.

"What Romney has done in his 25 years in the private sector is precisely what we need a president to do in Washington," Coburn wrote in an op-ed in the Oklahoman newspaper.

"Romney has done hard things. He has turned businesses around, told people hard truths about what needed to be done, inspired confidence and overcome excuses. Romney is not a career politician or a career legislator. As a former governor and business leader, he is an executive who knows how to use executive power."

And while Santorum was well ahead of his foe in Ohio polls for most of February, Romney was pulling ahead in the most recent Quinnipiac University survey released Monday. The poll showed Romney leading the one-time Pennsylvania senator with 34 per cent of support compared to Santorum's 31 per cent.

Romney's triumphs last Tuesday in Michigan and Arizona were followed by Saturday's victory in the Washington state caucuses, giving him 207 delegates so far, according to unofficial estimates. A winning candidate needs 1,144 delegates to seal the nomination.

Neither Gingrich nor Santorum made the ballot in Virginia, limiting the opportunities for either man to gain ground on Romney.

As he campaigned in Canton, Ohio, on Monday, Romney kept his focus on Obama.

"I look at this campaign right now and I see a lot of folks all talking about lots of things, but what we need to talk about to defeat Barack Obama is getting good jobs and scaling back the size of government, and that's what I do," Romney, a former businessman, told the crowd at a campaign stop.

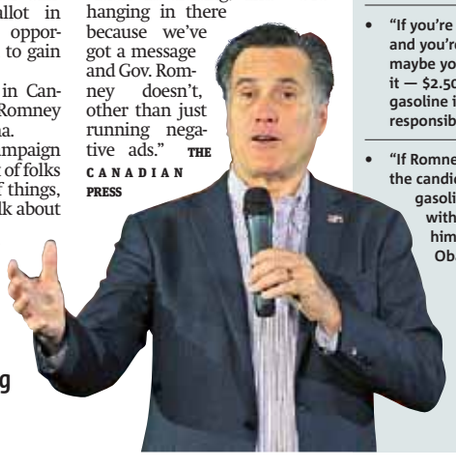
"What I know is the economy. I've spent my life in the real economy.... Other people in this race have debated about the economy, they've read about the economy, they've talked about it in subcommittee meetings, but I've actually been in it."

Santorum put on a brave face in an interview with Fox News, insisting he still had a good shot of doing well on Tuesday despite being vastly outspent by Romney, a common refrain from the wealthy candidate's competitors.

"We're being outspent about six to one again in just about every state," Santorum said Monday from Ohio. "It's remarkable that we're doing as well as we are. We're just getting pummelled here in robocalls and direct mail and television advertising, and we're hanging in there because we've got a message and Gov. Romney doesn't, other than just running negative ads." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Romney's talking points

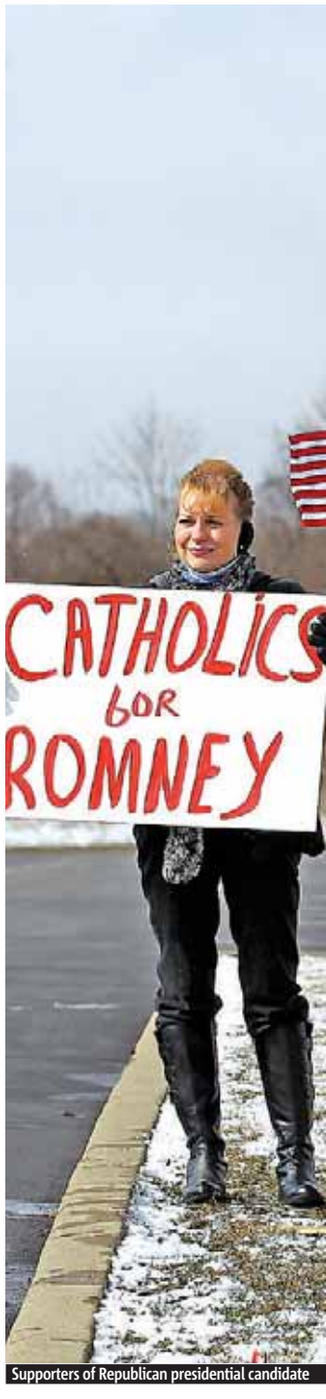
"I look at this campaign right now and I see a lot of folks all talking about lots of things, but what we need to talk about to defeat Barack Obama is getting good jobs and scaling back the size of government, and that's what I do." Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney



What Gingrich had to say

Gingrich, meantime, put in a plug for Canadian oil as he maligned Romney for being out of touch with Americans about gasoline prices.

- Romney mocked Gingrich over the weekend for promising $2.50-a-gallon gasoline to voters, calling it a pander.
- Unlike Romney, Gingrich said, "I stand for everyday working Americans."
- "I believe that if we open up federal land, if we open up offshore, (if) the president (approves the) Keystone pipeline — that's 700,000 barrels a day of Canadian oil."
- Gingrich added Romney doesn't understand the importance of slashing gas prices because of his wealth.
- "If you're Mitt Romney and you're rich enough, maybe you don't get it — $2.50-per-gallon of gasoline is more than responsible."
- "If Romney wants to run as the candidate of high-price gasoline, that's fine with me — we'll lump him in with Barack Obama."



Supporters of Republican presidential candidate

Al-Qaida. Insurgents kill 25 police in Iraq

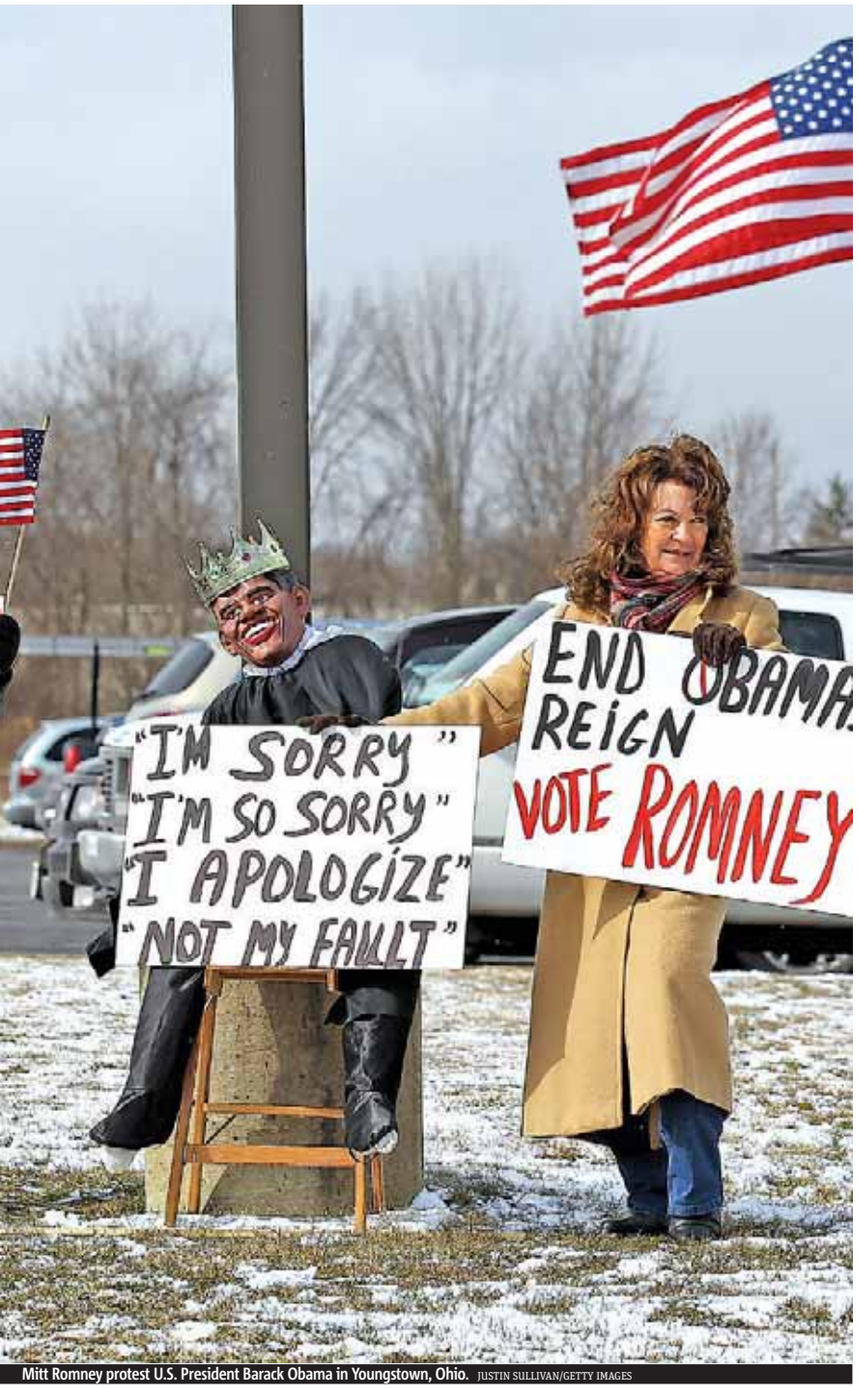
Assailants waving the battle flag of al-Qaida gunned down 25 police officers Monday in a brazen and well-orchestrated challenge to government control over a strategic town fraught with Iraq war symbolism.

The attack replicated tactics used by Sunni insurgents during the war and appeared aimed at reasserting al-Qaida's grip now that the Iraqis can no longer rely on American help.

The attackers drove through the town of Haditha claiming to be government officials and methodically executed guards and commanders. After half an hour they escaped into the desert, leaving a terrified populace demanding protection. Local authorities imposed a curfew and deployed troops.

Mohammed Owda al-Kubaisi, a relative of one of the slain policemen, spoke of his four children, "now orphans because their father was assassinated by the cold blood of insurgency while our government keeps watching and denouncing."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Mitt Romney protest U.S. President Barack Obama in Youngstown, Ohio. JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

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Nine U.S. advertisers rush from Rush

'Slut' furor. Limbaugh jokes he even got a busy signal when he called his own show to cancel an ad

Nine advertisers had dropped their sponsorship of Rush Limbaugh's U.S.-wide radio show as of Monday in a furor over his "slut" jibe.

They included Internet services company AOL, ProFlowers and U.S. mortgage lender Quicken Loans.

Limbaugh even joked he got a busy signal Monday when he called the show to join the growing roster of advertisers abandoning it.

"I called myself to cancel my advertising. I got a busy signal," he deadpanned at the start of Monday's program.

Limbaugh sparked the fracas last week when he called law student Sandra Fluke a "slut" and a "prostitute" for wanting insurance coverage for birth control devices. He apologized on the weekend.

Contrite

"I should not have used the language I did, and it was wrong.

Rush Limbaugh, on his radio show on Monday.

But Fluke said the apology did nothing to change the corrosive tone of the debate over health-care coverage.

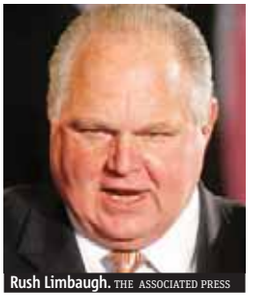
She said she had not heard from Limbaugh directly and had little interest in speaking with him.

Fluke testified to Democrats in support of their national health policy, which would compel her Jesuit college's health plan to cover her birth control.

The administration of Democratic President Barack Obama wants employers, including institutions such as Roman Catholic hospitals, to be required to cover women's contraceptive needs.

Limbaugh, even as he retreated from calling Fluke a "slut" and "prostitute," insisted the 30-year-old was trying to "force a religious institution to abandon its principles to meet hers."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Rush Limbaugh. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Record bid. Daredevil dies after being buried alive in 3-metre trench

A Sri Lankan man has died while trying to set a record for the longest time spent buried alive.

Police said Janaka Basnayake, 24, buried himself over the weekend with the help of his family and friends in a trench sealed with wood and soil in the town of Kantale, about 220 kilometres north of Sri Lanka's capital, Colombo.

A local newspaper said the trench was three metres deep.

Basnayake was buried around 9:30 a.m. Saturday.

Police said that when he was brought to the surface at 4 p.m., he was unconscious and was taken to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Dr. D.G. Costa of the Kantale hospital said a post-mortem examination could not determine the cause of death and further medical investigations are being conducted.

Basnayake's mother, L.D. Leelawathi, said her son had enjoyed performing unusual acts since his childhood — a liking that grew after watching movies.

A newspaper quoted her as saying that her son had been buried alive on two previous occasions — for two and a half hours and six hours respectively.

It was unclear whether there is an official world record for the longest time buried alive.

Police said Basnayake was a member of the Civil Defence Force, a police unit that fought in the country's 25-year civil war.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unreleased music

Hackers swoop on Sony, steal Jackson tracks

Two men have been charged in Britain with hacking into Sony Music's computers and stealing music.

A person familiar with the situation said the hackers obtained unreleased Michael Jackson tracks.

Sony Music Entertainment spokesperson Liz Young said the company noticed a breach of its systems and "took steps to secure the site." No customer data were compromised. Sony would not say how much music was stolen.

But a person familiar with the situation, who was not authorized to speak publicly, said Monday the suspects were Jackson fans and had taken his music, including unreleased material.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quakes to blame

Disasters cost lives and historic amount of cash

The economic cost of disasters in 2011 was the highest in history — costing at least $380 billion, mainly due to earthquakes in Japan and New Zealand, a United Nations envoy said Monday.

Margareta Wahlstrom, the secretary-general's special representative for disaster risk reduction, said the figure was two-thirds higher than the previous record in 2005 when hurricane Katrina struck the United States.

In addition to the earthquakes, Wahlstrom said major floods in Thailand and other countries caused extensive damage.

"The main message is that this is an increasing — very rapidly increasing trend with increasing economic losses," Wahlstrom said.

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Soft landing for Canada's housing market: CREA

The Outlook. National sales activity will be on par with the 10-year average for annual activity, says the agency.

The number of Canadian homes sold this year will outpace 2011 while prices will hold steady in most parts of the country, the Canadian Real Estate Association said Monday in a rosy revision to its 2012 outlook.

It said the number of home sales will grow by 0.3 per cent this year to 458,800 from 457,305 units in 2011, largely due to the continuation of low borrowing rates. The national average price is forecast to dip by 1.1 per cent in 2012 to $359,100 but that's due to a drop-off in multimillion-dollar sales activity in Vancouver — Canada's most expensive real estate market.

In Vancouver, prices are already falling from sky-high levels a year ago, especially in the condo market. By contrast, sales and prices are still moving higher in Toronto, with sales up 16 per cent from last February and prices up 11 per cent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Moment

DOLLAR
$100.58 US
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OIL $106.72 US (+$0.02)

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EVERYBODY'S WORKING FOR THE WEEKEND

SHE SAYS...
Jessica Napier
metronews.ca/shesays

Last week, my friend Amy quit her job. There's nothing particularly interesting about this other than the fact that she gave her notice without any sort of plan for what comes next.

It's pretty bold to give up a stable working environment before you figure out your next step. Simultaneously liberating and terrifying, leaving a bad job is great, but giving up a regular paycheque certainly isn't. Part of me is jealous of Amy's optimism toward her uncertain future; the other part of me needs to pay my rent next month and likes owning a fancy cellphone.

Up until this point, everything has been carefully mapped out for us: go to school, get a job, make money, feel satisfied with your grown-up life, etc. But what happens when you realize that perhaps this isn't exactly where you want to be? Is it too late to hit the reset button on your career?

The short answer is: absolutely not.

For our parents and grandparents, a long-term career with the same company was the holy grail of the working world. But in today's increasingly grim economy, a non-traditional workforce is evolving. We're now expected to embrace instability and jump from job to job with ease. And all of the perks that come with full-time employment — job security, health benefits, retirement plans — just seem like outdated luxuries.

Bye-bye 9-to-5

I'm writing this column on a Sunday afternoon in a crowded coffee shop with more laptops than lattes, and everyone is working on some sort of part-time project. We're all pursuing multiple ambitions and getting by as something/someone else ...

Almost everyone I know is doing something other than working full-time at a stable job. I currently operate three separate work-related email addresses and, on a good week, have up to five different bosses. We're all enrolled in continuing education, freelancing on the side, working on contract and generally not expecting to be in the same job five years down the road.

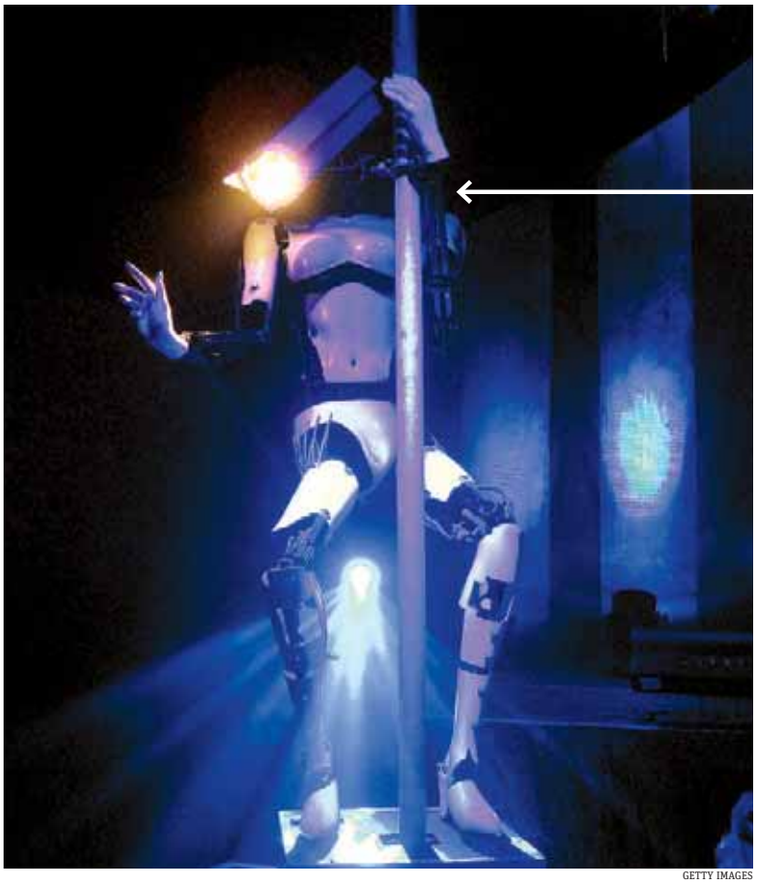
I'm writing this column on a Sunday afternoon in a crowded coffee shop with more laptops than lattes, and everyone is working on some sort of part-time project. We're all pursuing multiple ambitions and getting by as something/someone else: graphic designer/server, retail manager/blogger, teacher/photographer and so on.

I have one friend who works in banking and is getting her MBA part-time. She recently announced, without even a hint of irony, that she has started babysitting on the side in order to make some extra money. Apparently in a competitive job market you can't be above stealing employment opportunities from 13-year-olds.

So maybe it isn't so crazy to quit your job without a backup plan. As dreams of lifetime employment are replaced with an "until something better comes along" mentality, flexible has become the new full-time.

A bike rider does some serious multitasking as he makes the most of his morning outside the U of T campus. AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

This robot doesn't make calls



GETTY IMAGES

Push your buttons

Robogirls grind at high-tech expo

GERMANY. At least for some, all things technological get all the attention.

A "pole-dancing" robot is pictured during preparations at the CeBIT, the world's largest computer expo. The biggest tech expo takes place at the largest exhibition ground in the world, the Hanover fairground.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Debut

These works of art are not for sale

U.K. For those interested, these alluring robots of the female persuasion are not up for sale at the expo. They are works of art by 44-year-old British sculptor Giles Walker, which were first featured at a 2006 exhibit — Peepshow — by U.K.-based alternative art and cultural movement Mutate Britain.

METRO WORLD NEWS

They are made from...

"My robots are low-tech, built from scrapyard parts. The motors in them are mainly windscreen-wiper motors."

Giles Walker
sculptor

Walker says...

Voyeurism in our society

"It links the ideas of surveillance and voyeurism. We all live in a peep show with these mechanical peeping Toms on every street."

Staring at real buttocks...

"I looked at the real thing and adjusted the motor to get the movement right."

A technician adjusts a robot. GETTY IMAGES

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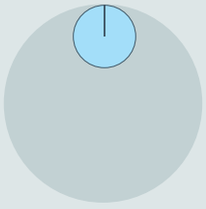

91%
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Twitter

@Cisko_Kidd_29:
It's that time of year again where my life gets consumed with #MLB12TheShow. #GotHeeem @PlayStation

@AfgWizard:
Listening to Nadia Ali, and reading tweets about her coming to #Toronto. Coincidence? Her and I are two peas in a pot.

@ontheTTC:
Newly elected Toronto city councillors to commission are: Cho, Stintz, Parker, Augimeri, De baeremaeker, Colle and Milczyn. Neat #ttc

@RohWorldPeace:
you know your roster is bad when you have jamaal magloire playing down the stretch #Raptors

@SoTeeOh:
This is our year....always. #TORONTO #bluejays #93back

@ayeitsjaaay:
Hunger games. I'm ready for ya.

metro

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DVD reviews

The Skin I Live In

Director. Pedro Almodovar

Stars. Antonio Banderas, Elena Anaya, Jan Cornet

In The Skin I Live In, Madrid master Pedro Almodovar turns more Ed Wood than Hollywood. There's weird science and kinkier sex.

Antonio Banderas is chilly plastic surgeon Dr. Robert Ledgard who has a laboratory inside his gated mansion where he seeks to invent artificial human skin by radical methods. His home also houses a beautiful, suicidal patient named Vera (Cairo Time's Elena Anaya). This more freaky than frightful, a "B" picture by an "A" director.

Footloose

Director. Craig Brewer

Stars. Kenny Wormald, Julianne Hough, Dennis Quaid

The 2011 remake of 1984's Footloose is virtually a beat-for-beat copy of its Reagan-era forebear. Director Craig Brewer sticks to the vanilla basics. The rebooted Footloose isn't as bad as feared, but neither is it the least bit necessary. **PETER HOWELL**

The story of John Carter first appeared in serialized form in a magazine in 1912. / HANDOUT

John Carter's West 'trumps' his fans

Sci-Fi. John Carter star Dominic West talks about his Star Wars and the line that sparked a following

NED EHRBAR
scene@metronews.ca

British actor Dominic West has become quite the familiar face thanks to his critically acclaimed run as Detective Jimmy McNulty on HBO's The Wire. And while the deserts of Mars are a long way from the streets of Baltimore, Md., John Carter is hardly his first foray into the science-fiction genre.

"I was in Star Wars, I don't know if you knew that," he says with a coy grin. "I've got a ridiculous hat on. I played two parts in the Phantom Menace. The first one — I think I had two lines, which were cut — was a Naboo officer, and then the next one was Palace Guard, who remained. I say, 'The boy is here to see you, your highness.'"

And while the 3D re-release of the Phantom Menace last month has many learning in retrospect about his involvement in the blockbuster franchise, West reveals that he's gotten more fan attention for that one line than for five seasons of The Wire, believe it or not. And they don't just send fan mail: West often receives copies of his Star Wars Top Trumps card — a children's card game — to be autographed. But fans looking for such a favour should proceed with caution. "Whenever they send me my Top Trump card, I never send it back. I keep that and send them a photograph," he says. "They should know better than to contact a palace guard and say things like, 'We loved your work in Star Wars and thought you were amazing, what you were doing.' You go, 'Shut up, give me that Top Trumps card.'"

Dominic West/ HANDOUT

John Carter

What's in a name?

Titles can be a tricky thing, especially when you're producing and releasing a $200 million-plus potential franchise starter. Somewhere in its journey to the screen, John Carter of Mars became John Carter — and it's not necessarily something the film's producers are thrilled about. "I think John Carter is a very, frankly, vanilla name," admits producer Lindsay Collins. "Apparently there was some study done of movies that had Mars in the title — every single one of them have tanked."

2 SCENE

Scene in brief

Airport Kitsch

Philippine official says Friday Night Lights star Taylor Kitsch was not hassled at Manila's airport recently, as the Canadian actor indicated. Kitsch said Wednesday on the Late Show with David Letterman that customs officers stopped him at the airport and ordered him back to Japan because his passport didn't have enough pages to stamp. Kitsch said he was let in only after proving with his iPhone that he was an actor. Philippine Customs chief Ruffy Biazon wrote in his blog Friday that no airport records show Kitsch visited Manila, and that his officers do not stamp passports.

On the Web

War Horse Song Person Melanie Doane says show's folk tunes feel natural to her.

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GAP

1 Demi gets a visit from ex-hubby, but don't expect a reconciliation

There's at least one person who knows the location of Demi Moore's secret post-rehab vacation: her estranged husband, Ashton Kutcher.

The Two and a Half Men star paid a visit to the recovering actress recently, according to People magazine — not that he was exactly enthused about it.

"They are not getting back together. He knew it was important to her daughters," a source says of the visit.

As for where it took place, sources tell E! News that they spotted Moore on a private beach near Parrot Cay in Turks and Caicos, at an ultra-exclusive resort only accessible by boat.

HACKERS POST NAKED CELEB PICS ... AGAIN

Metro has your celebrity gossip covered

METRO STAFF

Twitter

@woodelijah
Samoas! those are my jam

@KChenoweth
I'm in bed resting. Healing. And watching Tom Cruise in The Last Samarai. For the fifth time.

@John_Lithgow
Did a 3D double feature, HUGO and PINA. My head's spinning.

Hacking scandal ... again

More naked celeb photos: Real or fake?

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Another day, another phone hacking scandal involving half-dressed celebrities.

This time, Christina Hendricks and Olivia Munn are victims after an anonymous user on Motherless.com asked the site's forum readers which celebrity they would like to see naked.

When they answered Munn and Hendricks, the user, apparently through hacking magic, got onto Munn's and Hendricks' phones, grabbed some scandalous photos and posted them. And now they are all over the Internet.

Munn's leaked pictures have extremely dirty writing superimposed over hardcore photos of the actress. Hendricks' pics are mostly of the Mad Men star in half-dress, while one is a full-on shot of her world-famous rack.

A rep for Hendricks confirms the theft, telling Gossip Cop, "Christina's phone was in fact hacked and photos were stolen," noting, "the topless image is fake and not an image of Christina."

Munn is denying everything — she tweeted that the photos aren't hers. (As she should; if real, her pictures are some Hustler-level stuff.)

I know. Your first thought is: why would celebrities take naked photos of themselves when they know they are most likely to be hacked?

But, honestly, if you were that hot with enough of an ego to be an actor, you'd probably take naked photos of yourself, too. Just maybe delete them after you're done doing whatever it is you do with them?

ROMINA MCGUINNESS WROTE TODAY'S EDITION OF THE WORD.

Oh, baby!

- **Snooki is pregnant — and apparently engaged.** The Jersey Shore star has yet to confirm either report, but insiders tell E! News and People magazine that her boyfriend, Jionni LaValle, popped the question. And there you have it: Snooki is finally being made an honest woman.

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2 Birthday boy Bieber only had eyes for Gomez at bash

Justin Bieber celebrated his 18th birthday with a star-studded surprise bash thrown by his manager and his mom at the Beverly Wilshire hotel in L.A., according to Us Weekly.

"Everyone danced all night," a source says of the soirée.

Despite notable guests like Mike Tyson and Kim Kardashian, the birthday boy only had eyes for girlfriend Selena Gomez, who flew in from Florida, where she's filming a movie.

"He was all over Selena the whole time, walking her around by the hand," a source says. "He kept kissing her."

As for presents, his manager, Scooter Braun, bought Bieber a $102,000 one-of-a-kind Fisker Karma hybrid sports car.

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3 LIFE

Health fact

Citrus

According to research reported in the Journal of American Heart Association, citrus contains a class of compounds called flavonoids that are believed to provide protection as they improve blood vessel function and have an anti inflammatory effect.

On the Web

Experimental drug holds promise for use as post-stroke therapy: study

As we shy away from calling people fat, are we really being kinder calling them curvy? GETTY IMAGES

Is 'curvy' the new fat?

Weight tends to be a sensitive issue at the best of times. But now more than ever it is important to be happy with how you look

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
wellness@metronews.ca

Calling someone fat isn't very nice — Karl Lagerfeld learned that the hard way, after he called Adele overweight in Metro, drawing the ire of fans everywhere. But using the word "curvy" — is that wrong? It's usually meant as a compliment for a person with the right amount of flesh, in the right places. We're thinking Marilyn Monroe's hips, Christina Hendricks' bosom and Kim Kardashian's rounded bum.

But what happens if someone has a little too much flesh where they shouldn't? Do they go from being wonderfully curvy to dangerously fat?

The line between the two words has been blurred. Britney Spears for example, has been simultaneously described by tabloids as "out of shape" and "stunning".

Adele is a prime example. Everyone goes on about her weight — she even jokes about it herself (if she could be the face of anything, it would be full fat Coke, she said last September).

So why did Vogue UK smooth out her curves on her February cover?

On the same note, people can't seem to make up their minds as to whether or not 2012 Sports Illustrated Swimsuit cover girl Kate Upton is fat or curvy because her breasts fill her bikini top.

Plus sized model Tara Lynn has posed nude for Vogue Italia, and last summer, and she was the face of H&M's 'Big is Beautiful' swimwear collection. She knows what it's like to be a not-so-skinny-girl working in an environment strongly influenced by the size zero.

"Anyone can take one word and use it in an endless context," she says.

"Someone could say 'voluptuous' to mask saying another word such as 'obese'. Thankfully, being plus sized is no longer a taboo, even though the media constantly exposes us to a repetition of skinny images day in, day out, making us feel like we need to fit in."

The need to conform is what drives us to follow trends, and fear exclusion.

"The problem is we can't go all go by one unrealistic body image," adds Lynn.

She believes we need is a diverse perception of beauty covering a broad spectrum of shapes and sizes — no matter what we label them.

"I'm pleading with you to be happy with your body,"

Expert opinion

Gwendolyn DeVoe, creator and executive producer of Full Figured Fashion Week

- **Calling someone fat is offensive, but do you think people are now using 'curvy' to mean the same thing?** I don't think so at all. 'Curvy' and 'fat' are two different terms. Curvy, to me, is a positive term. A woman who is considered curvy can be a size 10 or a size 20. Curves are curves, no matter what the size. When someone describes a woman as being curvy, in my opinion, they are using it in a positive fashion whereas many people tend to use the word fat in a negative fashion. It's actually refreshing to see people now being more accepting of curvy bodies.

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Best Health

Best health portion checker

BEST HEALTH MINUTE
Bonnie Munday
Editor-in-chief
Best Health Magazine

Do you know how cow's milk compares with soy, almond and rice beverages in terms of calories and fat?

In each issue of Best Health magazine, we look at portion sizes and compare their ingredients and nutrients.

Here, from the March/April issue, we look at how one cup (250 mL) of milk and other beverages compare:

Skim milk
has 90 calories, 0.5 grams fat, 8 grams protein

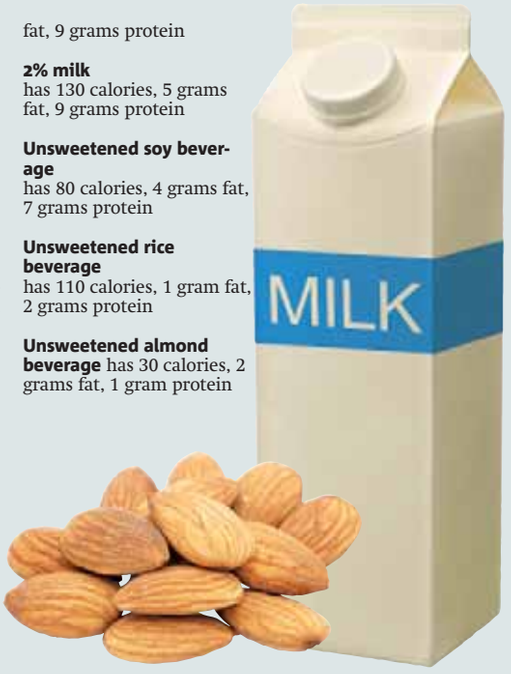
1% milk
has 100 calories, 2.5 grams fat, 9 grams protein

2% milk
has 130 calories, 5 grams fat, 9 grams protein

Unsweetened soy beverage
has 80 calories, 4 grams fat, 7 grams protein

Unsweetened rice beverage
has 110 calories, 1 gram fat, 2 grams protein

Unsweetened almond beverage has 30 calories, 2 grams fat, 1 gram protein



Thoughts On...

Contributing to the world we live in

Give yourself time to consider what you most want to contribute to the world. When you apply your natural talents, passions and abilities on behalf of others or a greater cause, you fulfill the highest part of you, and bring great joy to yourself. Don't worry about what to contribute, instead focus upon the intention, and then the means will reveal itself to you in surprising ways.

NATASHA DERN IS THE HOST OF THE BUDDHA LOUNGE RADIO SHOW.

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Bell watching TV just got better

Kennedy Public House offers fine dining with a casual vibe

Pizzas ($11 to $15). STEPHANIE DICKISON

LUNCH RUSH
Stephanie Dickison
food@metronews.ca

Want somewhere new, comfortable and affordable to go without having to sacrifice sleek decor or memorable food?

Kennedy Public House has it all, including a light-filled, roomy dining room and bar.

Walls showcasing vintage black and white photos of the area are a playful backdrop to slim tables and adjacent steel chairs that are modern but not pretentious. Neither is the menu.

Though it could be. After all, the Chopped Caesar ($10) is executed so beautifully — fine threads of asiago, fried capers and artichoke, sliced palm hearts, paper-thin, crisp pancetta, parmesan tuille and a rich, yet not cloying, dressing.

This is fine dining in a casual atmosphere.

Pizzas ($11-$15) boast a chewy crust and beguiling toppings such as pulled pork, smoked meat and pear.

There are nine to choose from, and on Mondays they are two-for-one.

All of this, with the bonus of our attentive Jimmy Fallon-esque server, made for a perfect meal.

Visiting the restaurant

The Kennedy Public House

Address. 2199 Bloor St. W. (near Runnymede)

Phone number. 416-769-3888

Website. thekennedy.com

Rating. 5/5

Client negotiations. Yes

Lunch with co-workers. Yes

Social lunch. Yes

Reservations. Yes

Licensed. Yes

Curry Tuna. In a hurry after work? Get dinner ready in a few minutes

This meal can be ready in no time for tired and hungry workers who want a spicy curry in a hurry. The recipe can easily be doubled to make four servings. Serve over rice or accompany with naan bread if desired.

1 In a large saucepan over medium heat, melt butter. Add the garlic. Stir in the tuna, sour cream and curry powder. Heat until warm and serve. Garnish with cilantro sprigs, if desired.

Ingredients

- 15 ml (1 tbsp) butter
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 cans (each 85 g) flaked light tuna (spicy Thai chili flavour)
- 250 ml (1 cup) low-fat sour cream
- 5 ml (1 tsp) curry powder
- Cilantro sprigs, for garnish (optional)

CLOVER LEAF/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

Make the wok sizzle

Stir-fries are a great dinner option when you want something quick.

While this Coconut Pork Stir-Fry uses mushrooms, red peppers, onions and spinach, it would work just as well with veggies such as yellow or green peppers, broccoli, green beans, water chestnuts and red onions.

1 Combine the marinade ingredients in a bowl; add pork, tossing it to coat. Cover and marinate in refrigerator 15 minutes.

2 Heat the oil in large skillet or wok over medium-high heat until hot. Stir-fry the pork, 1/2 at a time, 1 to 2 minutes or until outside surface is browned. Remove the pork from the pan with slotted spoon.

3 Stir-fry mushrooms, bell pepper and onion in same pan for 3 to 5 minutes or until onion is crisp-tender. Add pork, coconut milk and garlic salt. Stir in spinach; cook 3 to 5 minutes or until spinach is wilted, stirring occasionally. Serve over rice if desired.

Coconut Pork Stir-Fry Ingredients

Marinade
- 1 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tsp ground ginger
- 1/2 tsp Chinese five spice
- 1/2 tsp crushed red pepper

Stir-Fry
- 375 g pork tenderloin, cut lengthwise in half, then crosswise into 1/4 inch/6 mm thick slices
- 1 tbsp Mazola Veg Plus! canola and vegetable oil blend
- 250 g sliced mushrooms
- 1 red bell pepper, cut into thin slices
- 1 small onion, cut into thin wedges
- 1 can (390 mL) coconut milk
- 1 tsp garlic salt
- 4 cups packed spinach leaves (approximately 150 g)
- Cooked rice, optional

NEWS CANADA

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Fri
Salmon Dinner
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$6.98 plus taxes
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Sat
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Saturdays Special available on February 25 & March 3,10,17,24 & 31

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Redefining 'the dream'

Why are happy people 'rich'?

FUN AND FRUGAL
Leslie Scorgie
money@metronews.ca

I read a Fastcompany.com article last week about how the happiest people are spending their money. It's clear that happy people live lives that are rich; 'rich' meaning balanced and largely stress-free.

Happy people often have a different idea of 'the dream.' Rather than working to afford a big house and two cars, they're creating their own 'dream' based on what makes them fulfilled. For example, instead of living in the suburbs, many buy smaller, more centrally located homes where they don't need a car.

They save time commuting, exercise more, have fewer expenses and a lower environmental footprint. Redefining 'the dream' also means less stress. Happy people spend money on affordable experiences, not accumulating 'stuff' that contributes to debt. For example, many would prefer to travel versus hosting a lavish wedding; while others spend money on house cleaning so that they have more time to spend with their kids.

Prioritizing expenses to afford personally fulfilling experiences also means living within their means. That in turn translates into less debt and reduced stress.

Happy people also find creative ways to make more money. Some become full-time entrepreneurs. Others keep working their nine-to-five job, and turn their hobbies, like photography, music or teaching, into extra income by selling their services or inventing new products.

This crowd is frugal and resourceful, which enables them to save for their vision of retirement. Interestingly, many have selected careers that will carry them well past the traditional retirement age of 65.

Like happy people, choosing to not to keep up with the Joneses can buy you more time to focus on the things that matter to you. And it will help you build financial freedom by avoiding debt and having more money for savings.

Stop the yearly panic

RRSP contributions. Don't miss the boat again this year. It's time to set up monthly automatic deposits.

YOUR MONEY
Alison Griffiths
money@metronews.ca

You did it again. You went down to the RRSP wire, raided the kids' piggy banks, maybe leaned on your line of credit or put the touch on a grandparent then rushed off to make your last minute contribution.

With just under a year until the next RRSP deadline, you resolutely swear you're not going to do the last minute thing again. But I find that RRSP contribution vows, like New Year's resolutions, tend to get tossed aside in the stampede of life.

Take heart, I have a solution. Before the week is over set up an automatic transfer from your bank account to your RRSP. Just do it! Money that is out of sight is out of mind and, better yet, sheltered from spending urges.

While it would be nice to max out your RRSP contributions through monthly deposits, that's unrealistic for many, especially those with families, mortgages and car loans.

Instead, pick a number you can live with that won't stress you financially. Even $50 or $100 will start you off and chances are the money won't be missed if it is out of your account before you even have time to think about spending it. To be safe, set up the transfer a couple of days after your paycheque is deposited.

Here's a trick to go along with an automatic contribution plan. Give yourself an RRSP raise on a regular basis. Every six months or so bump up the transfer into your RRSP by a bit. You won't feel the pinch but the habit, once ingrained, will eventually turn into a nice tax deduction year in and year out.

Another rationale to this plan is the benefit of regular investing, called dollar cost averaging. If you contribute to your RRSP monthly, and invest in a group of quality products at the same time, you will have a much better return over time than those who make haphazard lump sum contributions and investments.

Dollar cost averaging evens out the ups and downs of the stock market and interest rates and also saves you from trying to guess when is the best time to invest. Research shows pretty much everyone gets it wrong over time.

A little saving now can make for smoother sailing later. / ISTOCK

Alison's money rule:

"Don't wait until your financial ship comes in. Save for retirement monthly to achieve the most secure nest egg."

Who's planning ahead?

43%

The percentage of 18- to 34-year-olds that do not have an RRSP account.

ALISON GRIFFITHS IS THE AUTHOR OF COUNT ON YOURSELF: TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR MONEY. REACH HER AT ALISONGRIFFITHS.CA OR AT GRIFFITHS.ALISON@GMAIL.COM

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Loans can be used for all sorts of reasons throughout the year, including home renovations, children's education savings or buying a home or car. / ISTOCKPHOTO|THINKSTOCK

Borrowing basics

Advice. Make sure you choose the right loan — and the right lender

JANE DOUCET
For Metro

Spring is just around the corner, and with it comes visions of putting an addition on the house, landscaping the garden, taking a warm vacation to shake off winter's chill or shelling out big bucks for your (or your child's) wedding. While they are all exciting plans, many Canadians will be asking themselves, how will I ever pay for them?

For some, the answer will be to apply for a loan. "Loans can be used for all sorts of reasons throughout the year, including home renovations, children's education savings or buying a cottage or car," says Christine Zalzal, vice-president of marketing at B2B Trust, a third-party supplier of investment and RRSP loans in Canada.

There are numerous things to think about when planning to get a loan. / ISTOCKPHOTO|THINKSTOCK

When looking for a lender, it's important to make sure the person you deal with at the lending institution is reputable and trustworthy, and that he or she really listens to your needs.

"Both the lender and the borrower have to properly assess the borrower's current and future financial goals before choosing the right type of loan or product," says Zalzal.

It's also important to consider whether you will be able to meet the loan payments if there is a change in your personal situation, such as you or your partner lose your job or you get divorced.

"You have to ask yourself whether you can afford to make a monthly payment on the principal, not just the interest, regardless of your circumstances," says Richard Goyder, vice-president of personal lending at RBC.

When it comes to searching for a lender, Goyder says the best advice is to get professional advice from your banker or financial adviser. "Borrowing money is a big and very personal decision," he says. "You have to ask yourself, how much should I borrow? What's my income? What's the best kind of borrowing for me?"

Before you can determine how much money you should borrow, it's vital to understand how much money you already spend each month and where you spend it. Then you can decide where to trim so you can set aside adequate funds to meet your loan payments.

Regardless of whether you borrow money from a bank or another lending institution, you must make sure you can afford to pay back the loan as per the lending agreement.

"Consumers should sleep easy at night knowing they're comfortable with their borrowing plan," says Zalzal. "If they have anxiety over it, they should revisit it."

Mistakes

Avoid these common blunders when you are planning for a loan

Don't want to end up drowning in loan debt? Richard Goyder, vice-president of personal lending at RBC, reveals some common borrowing mistakes and how to avoid them.

Choosing the wrong type of product. If you use a credit card to borrow a large amount of money, you will get dinged with a high interest rate.

"A better idea is to borrow on a line of credit, which has a lower rate of interest," says Goyder.

Not seeking advice. The different types of borrowing options, including secured and unsecured lines of credit and instalment loans — can be confusing if you are unfamiliar with them. "A financial adviser can explain them and help determine which is best for your situation," says Goyder.

Refusing to create a spending plan. It's a fact — budgets are boring. But they are also necessary to ensure you can meet your monthly loan payments. If you don't have a monthly budget, you may borrow too much and not be able to make the payments. Being unaware of your credit score.

A credit score lets lenders know if you are a safe or poor risk to borrow money. If you don't know your score, you can determine it by doing a credit score report online or having your banker do one for you.

Neglecting to approach your own bank. Although it might be tempting to respond to another lender's flashy advertisement, no one knows your financial situation better than your bank.

Because your banker already has your business, it might mean you will get a better deal than elsewhere.

Having too much debt in too many places. This scenario could land you in serious financial trouble, but there is a solution.

"Consolidating your debt can be a very sensible and clever way of saving yourself money on repayments," says Goyder.

JANE DOUCET

Let a specialist navigate your car loan

Investment.
Most people need to borrow money when purchasing a vehicle

Next to a house, a car or post-secondary education is probably one of the biggest investments you will make.

When purchasing a car, either from a dealership or through a private sale, most people need to secure a loan. The first step is to speak to a specialist who will guide you through the application process and advise you of the available options, says Shahz Beig, associate vice-president, personal lending, TD Canada Trust.

In contrast to a house, you don't need a down payment for a car; you can borrow the entire amount, as long as you qualify. You will need a bill of sale, and proof of registration, ownership and insurance, says Beig.

The interest rate on a car loan depends on the size of the loan and the number of years you take to pay it off. Interest rates for such loans are lower than for unsecured loans, and can be as low as prime plus 1.75 per cent, says Beig.

As a new car buyer, you can choose a fixed or variable rate with a wide range of payment terms. Bear in mind that the longer the term, the lower your monthly payments. For a new car, you can take up to seven years to repay the loan, but you can pay it off at any time.

"For example, if you can take a loan out for $10,000, you can pay it off in full in six months if you please, and there are no penalties or fees associated with that," says Beig

Since the car is considered collateral against the loan, and a vehicle depreciates over time, you have only up to five years to repay a loan to purchase a used car, and the interest rate would be slightly higher.

Another significant expense is a university or college education. The TD offers undergraduates a line of credit of up to $40,000 over four years at an interest rate of prime plus 1.5 per cent (totalling 4.5 per cent), says Beig. He believes this rate is better than for provincial student assistance programs. The bank also offers lines of credit for post-grads, even up to $200,000, at prime, to qualifying medical and dental students.

PAULINE ANDERSON

If you are looking to build a home, work with a specialist to arrange a loan.
ISTOCKPHOTO|THINKSTOCK

Time to build a dream home

As mortgage rates continue to be relatively low and promise to remain unchanged for at least the short term, this is a good time to consider getting a loan to purchase your dream home.

Start by working with a specialist to get pre-approved, says Farhaneh Haque, director, mortgage advice, TD Canada Trust. This process helps determine the type of loan for which you quality.

"It gives you the confidence to look at properties that are within your budget," says Haque. "There's nothing worse than falling in love with a home only to find out that you can't afford it."

Part of the pre-approval process involves evaluating your credit rating. "Sometimes we uncover something that you may not even know about, so if there are any skeletons in the closet, we can point you in right direction to rectify that," says Haque.

Selecting the right mortgage — fixed or variable, short or longer term, "open" or "closed" — is as important as finding the right house. Most buyers live in their first house for only about three years so Haque suggests asking about a mortgage's flexibility.

"Can I take this mortgage with me? Can I increase it? Can I pay more towards the principle? If I need to take a short break from payments, can I do that?"

The minimum down payment is five per cent. Of course, it's better to put down a larger amount so payments aren't so overwhelming and you a have a better equity position, says Haque.

Homebuyers can tap into their registered retirement savings plans to purchase a home. You and your partner can each withdraw up to $25,000, although some conditions apply and it has to be repaid, generally within 15 years.

Remember that the price of the house is not the only expense; there are also closing fees, moving costs, lawyer payments and other incidentals to consider.

"These need to be built into your budget," says Haque. And in addition to mortgage payments, there are other regular household expenses, including heating, property taxes, maintenance and renovations. A rule of thumb is that monthly housing costs shouldn't be more than 32 per cent of your gross monthly income.

For further information, visit tdcanadatrust.com/homeownership.

PAULINE ANDERSON

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Women in red prove more attractive to men, says study

Desire. Never underestimate the power of a woman in red. A new study looks at what attracts men to women and proves that red really is the colour of love.

CASSANDRA GARRISON
life@metronews.ca

Men who participated in the study looked at photographs of women framed by borders of different colours, including red. They were asked to judge how pretty they perceived the women to be.

Later, they viewed images of women wearing red shirts and were asked how much money they'd be willing to spend on each woman if they were on a date with her.

Turns out, the women wearing red or framed in red came out on top. These women were:

- rated significantly more attractive
- rated more sexually desirable
- more likely to be asked to the prom
- more likely to be treated to an expensive date

However, the colour red did not affect other factors the men were asked to comment on about the women, like likeability, intelligence or kindness.

This study could very well be the only scientific document on the effects of colour on behaviour in relationships.

"Much is known about colour physics and colour physiology, but very little about colour psychology," said psychology professor Andrew Elliot, a researcher on the study. "It's fascinating to find that something as ubiquitous as colour can be having an effect on our behaviour without our awareness."

Though society has deemed red the colour of passion, the attraction to it might be more scientific.

Primates offer a clear example. The females of some species will redden when nearing ovulation — sending the message that it's mating time.

"Our research demonstrates a parallel in the way that human and non-human male primates respond to red," said the study's authors.

"As much as men might like to think that they respond to women in a thoughtful, sophisticated manner, it appears that at least to some degree, their preferences and predilections are, in a word, primitive."

Yep, just confirming what we already knew.

Ladies, if you're trying to impress the men, wear red. ISTOCK

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ISTOCK PHOTO

Dividing up the birthday dinner bill

CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

I am coordinating a birthday dinner for a friend. Each attendee is expected to pay his/her own bill. The birthday girl's husband is attending. I would like to cover her bill, not his. Any suggestions? Hostess

Dear Hostess,

Since these two people are a couple, they should be treated as such and so the bill absolutely should be paid for both the birthday girl and her husband.

Now, you have several ways to deal with this.

Firstly, you can take the total bill including tip and divide this equally among those who are left paying. This will give you the equal amount each paying person contributes for the total bill including tip. In this scenario, all paying people have paid for themselves and an equal portion for the couple being hosted. Your second option would be to take the total bill including tip divided by the total number of people including the birthday girl and her husband. In this case you are responsible to pay for three shares (yours, the birthday girl's and her husband's). In this scenario, guests pay their own share only and you would be paying for yourself and the two guests.

Bon appétit!

NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT

ONLINE OR OFFLINE, THE SOONER YOU START LOOKING FOR A SUMMER JOB, THE BETTER

WAVEBREAK MEDIA/THINKSTOCK

Getting a summer job is like buying concert tickets — the best ones go first and the latecomers are stuck with the cheap ones. Employment experts say the sooner you start your summer job hunt, the better.

Karin Lewis, an employment counsellor and social media expert at JVS Toronto, says a great place to start your search is online.

"Google is the most effective and flexible job-search tool," she says. Search "summer+job+Halifax" (or wherever you are looking) to get results in your area. Mark "pages from Canada" to limit results. Set up a Google alert with your key terms to have the search giant filter job postings and email them you.

Search Twitter with hashtags such as #summerjobs #calgary. "If you are going to use Twitter, your Twitter needs to look decent," Lewis says.

Make sure your bio reflects your professional ambitions, your photo makes you look employable, and don't flame people about your drinking habits.

Create a solid LinkedIn profile. You can use it as your online resumé and connect to potential employers. Some jobs even require you apply via LinkedIn.

"If you have a good profile on LinkedIn and someone Googles you, that's the first thing they'll find," Lewis says. "It's a good way to control what people find."

There are also lots of job sites like Monster.ca, Jobsposting.ca and even Kijiji. For offline, check out your local employment centre or your university's student services centre. When you apply, use the keywords that describe the job in the posting. Direct it to the person specified. It's better to make a short list of jobs you really want and put a lot of time into those applications than to just fire off dozens of generic emails to dozens of companies.

Make sure you understand the terms of the job. A summer internship on a magazine might sound perfect for a budding writer, but it might not be paid. While it is important that your summer job provide experience will help you land a permanent job after graduation, you don't want to be exploited for free labour.

– Jon Tattrie

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CHANCE TO DISCOVER THE WORLD

SENECA COLLEGE INTRODUCING TWO NEW PROGRAMS

ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

The business world is changing fast. This fall, Seneca College introduces two new commerce degree programs to help you stay ahead.

The Bachelor of Commerce-International Business Management program introduces students to international business strategy, technology and the logistics of moving goods and services internationally.

"We're looking for students with a curiosity about the world around them," says program co-ordinator Carol Fearon. "They'll graduate with knowledge and skills that allow them to fill positions others cannot take."

The International Business Management program will take four years (eight semesters) to complete. However, students entering with a two- or three-year diploma may be eligible for advanced standing, allowing them to complete it in less time.

A paid, mandatory co-operative placement — which can be completed overseas — allows you to graduate with both the degree and practical work experience.

Graduates will be qualified to pursue several key industry designations.

Seneca's Bachelor of Commerce-Business Management degree is also earned through an eight-semester, four-year program. It, too, can be shortened if students enrol with an existing diploma. And like the International Business Management program, it was developed to respond to real-life needs in the marketplace.

"Our program is unique," says Chris Dudley, chair, School of Business Management and Centre for Human Resources. "It focuses on the challenges facing small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and how to solve them. Sustainability will be a major theme, because we now know sustainable business practices strengthen productivity, benefitting the bottom line."

Class sizes for the Business Management program are small: About 35 per room. Meaning, Dudley says, there will be nowhere to hide.

"You'll be called upon, guaranteed. Students must be comfortable presenting materials and case studies, and working in teams. There will be networking opportunities as well."

Students in the Business Management program must complete a paid co-operative placement; along with a four-month placement at a different company, where they will help develop a strategic plan.

With their studies finished, graduates will be ready for careers as product managers, project leaders, and entrepreneurs. They will be qualified to pursue several industry designations, as well.

To learn more about these programs, and how to enrol, visit senecacollege.ca.

CONTINUING FAMILY'S BUSINESS TRADITION

Dmitri Tchelnokov has dreamed of a career in international business for most of his life. And he shared a home with the best role model he could ask for: His mother.

The 26-year-old grew up in Moscow, watching his mom, an entrepreneur, organize European tours for Russian shop owners looking to buy and stock foreign-made goods. These trips lasted about a month, covering five or six countries. Tchelnokov could see what made his mother a success: Her strong entrepreneurial drive, coupled with smart managerial decisions and her knowledge of different markets.

International business seemed right for Tchelnokov, too. To him, it was exhilarating. It offered opportunities to meet people and go places and, best of all, there was a lot of money to be made. All he needed was the training to get started.

These ideas stayed with Tchelnokov: Through his family's move to Canada in 2000, through high school, and on to his enrolment in Seneca College's International Business diploma program in 2005. Tchelnokov completed his studies quickly, then entered the workforce. Then he returned — beginning an advanced diploma program he will complete this spring. Even this won't be the end of his schooling, however.

Dmitri Tchelnokov

SENECA COLLEGE PHOTO

Starting this September, Tchelnokov will pursue Seneca's new Bachelor of Commerce–International Business Management degree.

"I wanted to study a wider scope of business courses, specifically System Applications Product (SAP) courses," says Tchelnokov. "This program offers those, along with a paid co-op placement that will provide me valuable work experience."

With his existing credentials, Tchelnokov will earn his degree in about 15 months. He is already planning how to use it.

"I registered my own company about a year ago," says Tchelnokov. "It will be an international trading house, specializing in the trade of recyclable materials. My professors at Seneca have been a tremendous source of advice and support in putting it together. With the quality education I'm receiving through Seneca, I know can continue my family's tradition of business success."

RENEWABLE SCHOLARSHIPS

Enrolling in a Seneca degree program can qualify you for a renewable scholarship based on your high school grades or other post-secondary grades. The higher your average, the more money you could earn over the next four years:

- A 70 to 74 per cent average qualifies students for up to $2,000.
- 75 to 79 per cent: $3,000
- 80 per cent or higher: $4,000

For Seneca's Nursing degree, offered jointly with York University, the scholarships are calculated differently:

- 70 to 74 per cent: $750
- 75 to 79 per cent: $1,000
- 80 per cent or higher: $1,500

Currently, Seneca awards more than $1 million each year in renewable scholarships for students in the college's degree programs.

To learn more about scholarships, bursaries, and financial aid at Seneca, call 416-491-5050, ext. 22452 or ext. 33018.

PEER TO PEER

STUDENTS MAKE DIFFERENCE AT ROTMAN

Imagine an MBA program that expands your mind, challenges your beliefs and tests your aptitude, thanks not just to professors and scholarly material but to the students you sit beside.

That's what happens at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management, says Beatrix Dart, associate dean and academic director of the school's executive MBA programs.

Students in the Omnium Global Executive MBA and the Executive MBA are essentially hand-picked based on how they will fit in with the skills, experience and talents of other students. They are judged based on such attributes as motivation, accomplishments and interpersonal abilities.

Many of the students are experienced managers, consultants and entrepreneurs, but when asked to pick a highlight of their business studies they often cite their new network of classmates and friends.

"If you think about how you advance in life, it's who you know," says Dart. "It's important to have a great peer group around you and we try to create a class that's very diverse, very motivated and capable and prepared to invest in relationships."

The Omnium MBA program assembles international students from the world of business for two-week learning modules that occur every three months in Canada, Brazil, China, Europe and India. Academic learning is naturally part of the 18-month program, but equally important is the mini consulting project that immerses students in the country and culture in which they are working.

The Executive MBA (EMBA) is a one-year program designed for students who are working full time. Class time is every two weeks on Fridays and Saturdays. Offered in Toronto, the program is suited for students who have eight to 10 years of work experience and who are looking to advance their careers by improving their leadership and decision-making skills.

EMBA students also get an opportunity to study abroad for one week as Rotman has partnered with business schools in Milan, Paris and Los Angeles.

ROTMAN SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT PHOTO

RESUMÉS: YOU ONLY GET ONE FIRST IMPRESSION

Once you have identified your ideal summer job, you need a great resumé to land an interview. Many post-secondary institutions offer help at student services.

Christine Frigault, co-ordinator of career planning services at Mount Saint Vincent University, says students regularly make use of the school's "resumé critiques."

She says the average time an employer spends looking at a resumé is 30 seconds. If you fail to catch their eye in that narrow window, your application goes in the recycling bin. To stay in contention, Frigault says you should research the employer and the position and craft a resumé to match.

"The resumé should be revised each time you apply for a job," she says.

Students may want to use a "functional" format, which emphasizes skills over experience. With few jobs to boast about, highlight academic work, volunteer positions and other activities. Bullet points can make the information pop out. Frigault urges students to use "accomplishment statements" drawn from experience. For example: "Raised $300 at Shinerama."

Two pages is the maximum length for a resumé, and one page may be better. You get another page for the cover letter. "The cover letter is a good chance to showcase your writing skills," she says. "Three to four paragraphs is standard."

The letter should show the employer how you match the job's requirements, so use the keywords found in the posting.

– Jon Tattrie

DOS AND DON'TS

If you land an interview, keep these "dos and don'ts" in mind.

Do dress for success. Look crisp and professional; iron your shirt. Do learn as much as you can. Visit the company's website. Talk to people inside the organization. Do show up 10 minutes early.

Don't answer a question you don't understand. It's better to ask for clarification than ramble on hoping you land on a suitable answer. Don't let your phone ring.

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MEETING DEMAND

CENTENNIAL COLLEGE PHOTO

CENTENNIAL COLLEGE LAUNCHES NEW PARALEGAL PROGRAM

Centennial College is launching a new paralegal program to help meet the growing demand for paralegal practitioners in Ontario. Centennial's one-year graduate certificate program is tailored to people who already possess a college diploma or university degree, and who are looking to join the burgeoning paralegal field.

"It's really quite a good fit with the law clerks program," says program coordinator Patti Ann Sullivan. "A law clerk works for a law firm traditionally under the supervision of a lawyer. Paralegals, on the other hand, are different now; they carry their own liability insurance and they're not supervised by a lawyer. In conjunction with a law clerk, it's a perfect combo."

Whether you prefer working with lawyers, or diversifying and embracing your entrepreneurial spirit with your own paralegal practice, Centennial prepares you to make that choice. Paralegals are an integral part of the Ontario legal system and are active throughout the legal process from the first client meeting until case resolution.

Once you have successfully completed the program, you will be ready to write the mandatory LSUC licensing examination that is required to practise as a paralegal in Ontario.

"The idea is that we're preparing them to be able to write the licensing exam," explains Sullivan.

The Law Society of Upper Canada accredits Centennial's Paralegal program and the licence allows paralegals to provide permitted legal services to the public.

"People are really making informed choices when they choose this program, that this is the career that I want to make," Sullivan says.

In January 2010, the monetary jurisdiction of small claims court was raised to $25,000.

"So there's a lot more work for paralegals because of that. They now are the only ones, other than a lawyer, that can go to small claims court," explains Sullivan.

CAREER OUTLOOK

With strong employment prospects after graduation, paralegals will be prepared to work in the following fields: Law firms; community legal service; government; insurance firms; self-employment; collection agencies; and corporations.

Possible areas of private paralegal practice include: Highway Traffic Act offences; small claims court; tribunals; and provincial/minor criminal offences.

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UNIVERSITY GRADUATE HEADS BACK TO CLASS FOR A NEW CAREER

AS A COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER who specializes in events, Laura Angelone has grown accustomed to making things happen.

Two years ago, she turned a four-month co-op placement with the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario) into a full-time career.

Now, this graduate of Seneca's Corporate Communications program supports cabinet ministers, members of parliament, and industry stakeholders in the organization of announcements and community events. She is also responsible for writing speaking notes, news releases and a number of other materials as a member of the Public Affairs and Ministerial Services team.

"This is the career I always envisioned for myself after Seneca," Laura says. "It's a dream come true."

Laura's journey into the world of corporate communications didn't happen overnight.

After completing her undergraduate degree in tourism administration, she ended up working for two years as Manager of Guest Services for an Oakville restaurant. Soon she decided she wanted more in a career and started researching corporate communications education and careers.

Having already earned her university degree, Laura chose Seneca's Corporate Communications graduate certificate program which includes a co-op option and is the only public relations program in Canada to be certified by the Public Relations Society of America.

She says her ability to work in the public service was made easy thanks to the government relations course she took as part of the program that taught her about all levels of government and how they operate.

She says it really helped reduce the learning curve when she started the job.

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ENFORCE YOUR SKILLS AT HUMBER

GAIN VALUABLE EXPERIENCE WITH CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM

If you are interested in an career in law enforcement, Humber's Criminal Justice Program can give you the education you need in an exciting and diverse field that offers a variety of challenging career avenues and opportunities. The program will provide you with a broad-based understanding of the criminal justice system.

This professional degree program begins in September at Humber's Lakeshore campus. Toward the end of the eight semesters, you will have the opportunity to sharpen new skills while gaining crucial on-the-job work experience during two mandatory eight-week work terms.

Fourth-year student Rosa Figueroa feels the degree program will open more doors for her when applying for jobs. "I think that one of the most important things about the program is the co-op opportunities that we have, where we can apply everything that we've learned in the classroom study into the actual field. I did my placement at the Kingston penitentiary, which was a huge eye-opener for me."

Humber students and graduates are unique in the industry according to Jeanine Webber, professor and program co-coordinator. A registered social worker with more than 20 years of forensic experience, Webber has worked in multiple settings in the criminal justice system.

"Our criminal justice system is challenged with the responsibility of protecting the public, assisting victims and habilitating and supervising offenders. This is no easy task. Professionals within the criminal justice system need to be able to work in emotionally charged and often stressful situations with limited resources," she says.

With a mixture of both theory and applied skills, the program has a special emphasis on understanding the perspectives of offenders, front-line professionals and the community. And you will earn highly recognized credentials.

The program is endorsed by the Canadian Criminal Justice Association, the Ontario Community Justice Association and the International Corrections and Prisons Association.

Jeanine Webber

Rosa Figueroa

KEY CONCEPTS

You will start with introductory courses that provide a fundamental understanding of key concepts such as crime, victimization, criminalization, criminal justice and penal practice.

Later in the program, course content includes more in-depth study of the nature and causes of crime; processes for managing crime, victimization; community safety; rehabilitation; and alternatives to incarceration.

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HEMERA/THINKSTOCK

DEVELOP LEADERSHIP

ATHABASCA COURSE TARGETS MANAGERS, PROFESSIONALS

Athabasca University has the answer to your leadership problems.

New additions to the Leadership and Management Development (LMD) courses offered through the Faculty of Business at AU are targeting managers and professionals looking to further their leadership development.

"I'm thrilled that we have at last been able to put enough energy and resources into our LMD program to make it a truly attractive and competitive professional development option for organizations of all shapes and sizes," says Dr. Deborah Hurst, associate dean of the Faculty of Business, who championed the development of the expanded LMD course lineup.

Each of these courses are four-week, interactive online courses, designed to focus on a specific management area and can be for the individual or groups.

LMD for groups can even be customized to almost any organizational or industry context.

The customization option makes these courses an attractive, cost-effective solution for businesses and associations who what their own in-house development program for high-performing employees or members.

One group taking advantage of the customized LMD courses is the Canadian Gaming Centre of Excellence (CGCE).

Combined with courses of their own, the LMD course covers general management topics such as leadership and human resource management, with case studies, examples and assignments, designed specifically for the gaming environment.

Other LMD clients have included associations offering courses leading to their own professional designations, government agencies developing employees from various branch locations, and a group providing professional development opportunities for rural entrepreneurs.

These courses are also great for individuals looking to pursue an MBA. Applications are being accepted for these courses. For more, visit athabascau.ca, or call 780-459-1144 or 1-800-561-4650.

– Candice Ward, with files from Athabasca University, Faculty of Business

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SHERIDAN COLLEGE PHOTO

UNDER BIG CITY LIGHTS

SHERIDAN THEATRE GRADS TO REPRISE RENT IN TORONTO

Sheridan College theatre graduates will debut their musical chops in Toronto this May in their reprisal of the Tony Award-winning production of Rent.

"It's pretty extraordinary to have this be your first gig upon graduation," says Michael Rubinoff, associate dean of Sheridan's visual and performing arts. "We are excited to share the exceptional talent of our most recent graduates with a larger audience."

This is the first time in Theatre Sheridan's history that a theatrical production has been transferred to a venue in Toronto.

The 32 performers from the graduating class of Sheridan's music theatre performance program presented Rent to much acclaim last December at the college's Oakville campus. Leading show business practitioners such as Rubinoff, Lezlie Wade, assistant director of Jesus Christ Superstar, and Bob Foster, musical director for Billy Eliot, lent their vast artistic talent to the original production, as did many other theatre pros.

"This new production of Rent, created by some of Canada's leading theatre artists, is an opportunity for theatregoers to launch the careers of Canada's next generation of performers," says Rubinoff, a former entertainment lawyer and director of Canadian theatre productions such as Dog Sees God, and Love, Loss and What I Wore.

Theatre Sheridan's rendition of the musical opens at the Panasonic Theatre May 16 and runs through until May 27.

For tickets, go to mirvish.com or call 416-872-1212.

HIGHLY TOUTED

Alumni from Sheridan College's music and technical theatre production programs boast impressive on-stage and backstage credits in theatres the world over.

Graduates such as Chilina Kennedy played Mary in the Stratford Shakespeare Festival production of Jesus Christ Superstar on Broadway. Michael Therriault originated the role of Gollum in Lord Of The Rings: The Musical in Toronto and London. And Brittany Allen won an Emmy in 2011 for her work on the TV soap All My Children.

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DEGREES DIPLOMAS APPRENTICESHIPS CERTIFICATES CONTINUING EDUCATION

A simple word of appreciation can work wonders on a weary workplace. / ISTOCK

Three keys to a happy workplace

Jolly on the job.
Yes, you read correctly. It might just be possible for you to wake up wanting to go to work.

TIFFANY KANG
life@metronews.ca

Not much annoys employees more than a broken coffee machine — unless you're counting the job itself.

According to a recent survey by Right Management's talent and career services, the majority of American employees describe their present work situation as unrewarding and draining.

Talent management expert Ron Sims attributes the workplace blues primarily to feelings of confinement. With drastic reductions in staff over the last several years, "companies are doing a lot more with a lot less people, so workers can't afford to leave," he says.

Though most employees would take their unhappy selves elsewhere, "there's a fear that there are no options available," says Sims.

Despite the slump, companies can still incorporate optimism into the picture. Sims lists three components to a happy work environment.

Appreciative
"People feel valued. What we have found critical is the importance of recognition and acknowledgement, even in gestures as simple as coming around and thanking people for their time and work."

Honest
"Management is open and transparent. The company encourages everyone to discuss concerns."

Proactive
"Though the situation is tight, there are still career management opportunities to learn and develop within the company."

Look on the bright side

It's not as tough as it seems.

- **Advice.** "Folks who handle this the best are those that understand the context. Instead of complaining, there may be something you can do in the job to make yourself more satisfied and, frankly, more happy."

Workplace Law

When will disability justify a dismissal?

WORKPLACE LAW
Daniel Lublin
dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com
Twitter: @danlublin

Seldom will a temporary illness justify dismissal. But what happens when a sick employee may never return to work? Can employers discard employees they view as festering on their disability insurance or must they keep their jobs available for an indefinite period of time? According to a recent Ontario case, employers may have more latitude than you think.

When Linda Fraser fell ill she did not think that she would never work again. Fraser, a long term employee of UBS Global Asset Management, was forced onto UBS' disability plan for depression and anxiety. Her departure was for good.

Fraser applied for and was granted long term disability benefits from UBS' insurance provider in 2007. According to the terms of the insurance plan, Fraser received disability payments for up to two years since she was unable to perform her job. However, after two years, Fraser no longer met the requirements for continued disability payments and the insurance company terminated her coverage.

Fraser did not tell UBS that her insurance coverage terminated and she did not return to work. Therefore, UBS fired her, claiming that her employment was "frustrated" by virtue of her illness.

The legal principle of frustration of contract means that what you have initially bargained for no longer exists. In workplace law, the issue often arises when employees are absent for an indefinite period of time, without any reasonable likelihood of returning.

DANIEL A. LUBLIN IS AN EMPLOYMENT LAWYER WITH WHITTEN & LUBLIN. TO READ THIS ARTICLE IN ITS ENTIRETY VISIT METRONEWS.CA

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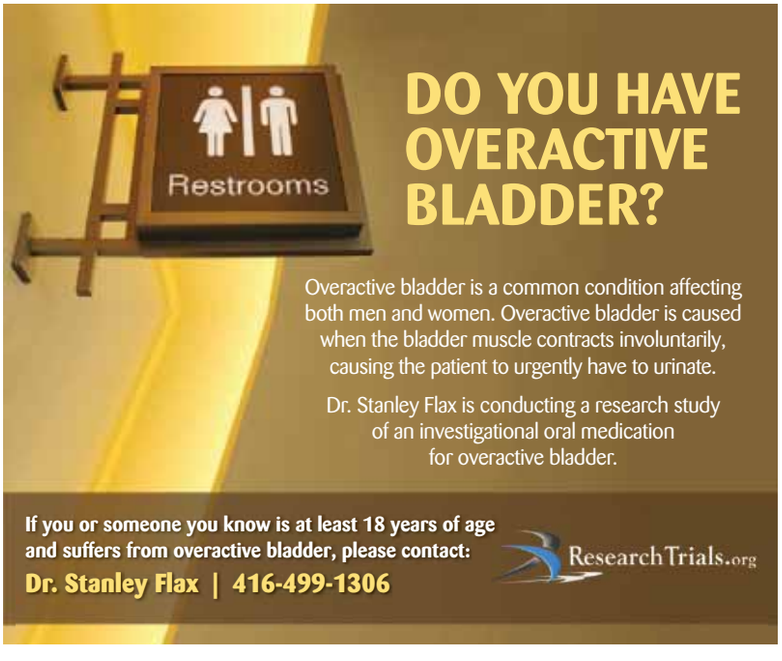
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4
SPORTS

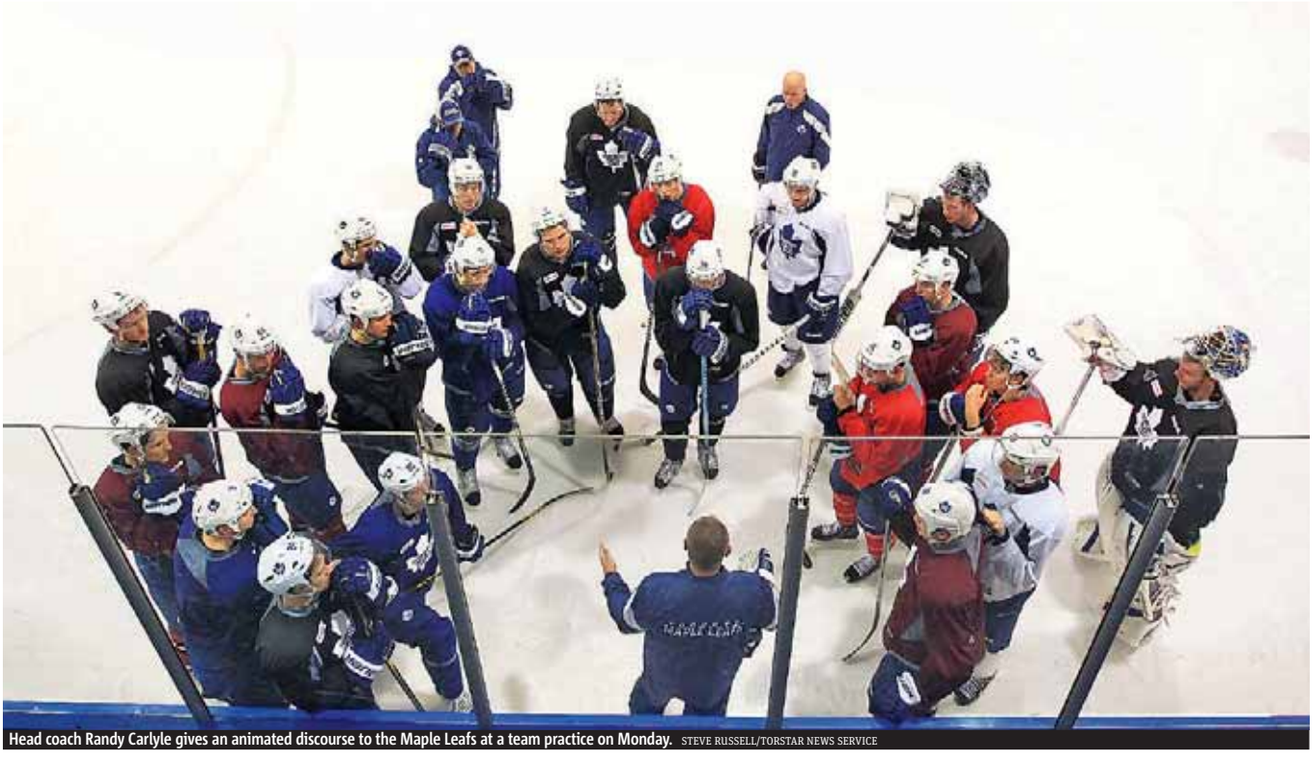
Leafs preview

Boston at Toronto, 7 p.m.

(Sportsnet Ontario)

The Maple Leafs (30-28-7) host Boston (38-23-3), which has lost three of its last four games. Tuukka Rask returned to Boston on Saturday after suffering a knee injury against the Islanders. David Krejci has five goals in his last five games and is finding chemistry with new linemates Tyler Seguin and Milan Lucic, who each have four points in the last four games. Tim Thomas has a .910 save percentage in 21 games since Jan. 1.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Head coach Randy Carlyle gives an animated discourse to the Maple Leafs at a team practice on Monday. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Leafs looking to play more conservatively

Game plan. New coach puts focus on improving defence, shifts away from wide-open hockey

The days of wide-open hockey are over. Gone is the free-flowing, opportunity-trading game that put the Toronto Maple Leafs on course for another season outside the playoffs.

Randy Carlyle's first couple days as head coach centred around tightening things up.

"I think every team can play better defensively," Carlyle said Monday. "Everybody practises defensive-zone coverage, everybody practises neutral-ice defensive schemes and everybody practises their forecheck.... We're no different. It just might be a little different from what the previous coaching staff had in place.

"That's all. We're going to continually focus on being somewhat more conservative as far as giving people up in the offensive zone."

It could be a significant shift for the Leafs, who have had trouble keeping the puck out of their net this season. While much of the blame for that fell on goaltenders Jonas Gustavsson and James Reimer under previous coach Ron Wilson, Carlyle seems intent on shifting the onus to his forwards and defencemen as well.

Following a 3-1 victory over Montreal in Carlyle's debut on Saturday night, the Leafs went through a crash course in the new coach's system. He kept players on the ice for roughly two hours of practice on Sunday and Monday.

"That's all part of the learning curve that we feel is necessary to get our message (across) and to sell our program to these players at this time," said Carlyle.

Under Wilson, the Leafs gained a reputation as being one of the fastest teams in the NHL. However, the wide-open style he championed didn't translate particularly well to the nights where his players didn't have their best.

There will be no magic elixir for a team sitting 12th in the Eastern Conference. The Leafs recalled energy forward Jay Rosehill on Monday and might insert him into the lineup Tuesday against the Boston Bruins.

With Wilson at the helm, Rosehill dressed for just 16 games before being sent to the American Hockey League 10 days ago. He'll likely get more of an opportunity under Carlyle, who tends to favour a rough-and-tumble game.

The 26-year-old winger is one of many players in the dressing room feeling rejuvenated.

"There's a different energy here and rightfully so," said Rosehill. "After making a big change like we did, I'm sure that would be the case for any team."

Captain Dion Phaneuf met with Carlyle on Monday morning and said afterward that "it's a fresh start for everyone."

He expects that to be reflected in the game against Boston, which has beaten Toronto four times this season by a combined scored of 23-6.

"Right now we're not looking into the past," said Phaneuf. "It's a big game for both teams, but we're not concentrating on the negatives of how we've played against them. We've got to come out, we've got to build on the way that we played in Montreal and keep getting better as a group."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Open line to Carlyle

During his previous stint with the Anaheim Ducks, Randy Carlyle earned a reputation of being a coach that demanded a lot from his players.

- On Monday, he pledged to keep an open line of communication with everyone around him in Toronto — from players to members of the media.
- "The less fibs that you tell, then you don't have to have a good memory," said Carlyle.
- Citing superstition, he made it clear that one area that will remain off-limits is discussing which goaltender will start each night.

Bruins

Turco gets the call to fill in for injured Rask

The Boston Bruins added some depth to their crease Monday, signing veteran goalie Marty Turco for the rest of the season.

The move will help lighten the load on starter Tim Thomas after backup Tuukka Rask was injured over the weekend.

Turco will be placed on waivers and if he clears, the 36-year-old will join the Bruins on Wednesday.

Turco will not be eligible to play in the playoffs because he joined the team after the Feb. 27 trade deadline.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Marty Turco
RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES

Howard puts on a Magic show for Raps

NBA. Orlando star has big night, highlighted by monster jam

Dwight Howard had 36 points and 13 rebounds Monday to lead the Orlando Magic over the Toronto Raptors 92-88.

DeMar DeRozan had 23 points for the Raptors (12-26), who were coming off a victory over Golden State on Sunday.

Aaron Gray added 11 points and 11 rebounds for Toronto.

Ryan Anderson had 19 points and 13 boards for the Magic (25-14).

JJ Redick's 23-foot three-pointer with less than 10 seconds to go helped the Magic seal the win. He finished 3-for-4 from three-point range, picking up 13 points and six assists.

Jose Calderon drained a three from the top of the arc with just over six seconds remaining to cut Orlando's lead to two, but Redick made two free throws on the next procession to put the Magic back up by four.

The highlight of the night came with less than a minute remaining in the third quarter as Howard finished off a perfectly timed alley-oop pass from Redick with a monster two-handed jam.

Ex-Raptor Hedo Turkoglu, who came in averaging 11.6 points and 4.6 rebounds, was booed all night by the 15,392 in attendance at Air Canada Centre. Turkoglu finished with no points and nine assists.

After the Magic opened an eight-point lead in the second quarter, DeRozan picked up six points to cut the lead to just two. However, Redick drained a 25-foot three-pointer, giving Orlando a five-point lead at the break.

Howard had four dunks, many of the highlight variety, leading the way for the Magic in the first quarter with 10 points and giving Orlando the early three-point lead.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Orlando's Dwight Howard drives past Aaron Gray. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-NY Rangers	64	42	15	2	5	179	133	91	22-7-0-2	20-8-2-3	6-2-1-1	W1
d-Boston	64	38	23	1	2	209	150	79	19-12-1-1	19-11-0-1	4-5-0-1	L2
d-Florida	65	31	22	5	7	163	184	74	16-9-1-7	15-13-4-0	4-5-0-1	W1
Pittsburgh	65	39	21	2	3	209	168	83	21-8-2-0	18-13-0-3	8-2-0-0	W6
Philadelphia	64	36	21	2	5	210	191	79	15-10-1-4	21-11-1-1	5-5-0-0	W2
New Jersey	65	36	24	2	3	180	175	77	16-12-0-3	20-12-2-0	5-4-1-0	L1
Ottawa	67	34	25	6	2	202	198	76	17-13-2-1	17-12-4-1	6-3-1-0	L2
Winnipeg	67	32	27	4	4	176	187	72	21-10-1-3	11-17-3-1	6-2-1-1	W2
Washington	65	32	28	2	3	172	184	69	21-10-0-2	11-18-2-1	4-6-0-0	L2
Tampa Bay	65	31	28	3	3	184	219	68	20-9-1-1	11-19-2-2	7-3-0-0	W4
Buffalo	66	30	28	4	4	163	186	68	16-11-3-4	14-17-1-0	6-2-1-1	L1
Toronto	65	30	28	4	3	194	201	67	16-12-3-2	14-16-1-1	2-7-1-0	W1
NY Islanders	66	28	29	6	3	154	190	65	15-14-5-0	13-15-2-2	4-5-1-0	W2
Carolina	65	24	27	8	6	171	197	62	17-13-1-5	7-14-7-1	4-2-2-2	L2
Montreal	66	25	31	2	8	170	184	60	12-15-2-6	13-16-0-2	2-7-0-1	L1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Vancouver	66	41	17	1	7	209	161	90	19-7-0-4	22-10-1-2	6-2-1-1	L1
d-St. Louis	66	41	18	1	6	169	131	89	26-4-1-3	15-14-0-3	7-3-0-0	W1
d-Dallas	66	35	26	1	4	174	178	75	18-12-0-3	17-14-1-1	7-1-1-1	W2
Detroit	66	43	20	1	2	209	153	89	27-4-1-1	16-16-0-1	6-3-0-1	L1
Nashville	65	38	20	3	4	184	166	83	21-7-2-3	17-13-1-1	6-2-0-2	W1
Chicago	67	36	24	4	3	202	195	79	22-7-1-3	14-17-3-0	7-3-0-0	W3
Phoenix	66	33	24	3	6	171	167	75	17-12-2-2	16-12-1-4	6-3-0-1	L3
San Jose	64	33	24	4	3	179	163	73	19-11-2-0	14-13-2-3	2-7-1-0	L2
Los Angeles	65	30	23	5	7	142	139	72	17-13-0-4	13-10-5-3	4-4-1-1	W2
Colorado	67	34	29	3	1	171	180	72	18-15-0-1	16-14-3-0	6-4-0-0	W1
Calgary	66	29	25	5	7	159	181	70	16-9-1-4	13-15-4-3	3-2-2-3	L2
Anaheim	66	28	28	4	6	166	186	66	17-14-2-0	11-14-2-6	5-4-0-1	L1
Minnesota	66	28	28	2	8	143	180	66	15-12-1-3	13-16-1-5	3-5-0-2	L4
Edmonton	64	25	33	2	4	170	192	56	16-13-2-2	9-20-0-2	4-5-1-0	L2
Columbus	65	20	38	2	5	153	214	47	11-18-1-2	9-20-1-3	4-5-1-0	W2

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
Winnipeg 3 Buffalo 1
Pittsburgh 2 Phoenix 1
Edmonton at Anaheim
Sunday's results
Florida 4 Ottawa 2
Dallas 3 Calgary 2 (SO)
N.Y. Rangers 4 Boston 3
N.Y. Islanders 1 New Jersey 0
Chicago 2 Detroit 1
Philadelphia 1 Washington 0
Colorado 2 Minnesota 0
Tonight's games
All Times Eastern
Boston at Toronto, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Carolina at Washington, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Los Angeles at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Montreal at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Dallas at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Edmonton at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Carolina at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Stamkos, TB	47	33	80
Malkin, Pgh	38	42	80
Giroux, Pha	23	52	75
Spezza, Ott	28	44	72
Kessel, Tor	32	36	68
Lupul, Tor	25	41	66
Karlsson, Ott	15	51	66
H.Sedin, Vcr	13	53	66
D.Sedin, Vcr	28	36	64
Hossa, Chi	27	37	64
Tavares, NYI	26	37	63
Neal, Pgh	30	32	62
Kovalchuk, NJ	25	37	62
Eberle, Edm	28	33	61
St. Louis, TB	22	39	61
Elias, NJ	21	40	61
Hartnell, Pha	31	28	59
Pominville, Buf	23	36	59
Eriksson, Dal	22	37	59
Ra.Whitney, Phx	20	39	59
Datsyuk, Det	16	43	59
Parenteau, NYI	15	44	59
Thornton, SJ	14	45	59
Gaborik, NYR	32	26	58
E.Staal, Car	19	39	58
Toews, Chi	29	28	57
Selanne, Ana	21	36	57
Moulson, NYI	28	28	56
Parise, NJ	27	29	56
Sharp, Chi	25	30	55
Kopitar, LA	19	36	55
Vrbata, Phx	30	24	54
Zetterberg, Det	14	40	54
Filppula, Det	21	32	53
O.Jokinen, Cal	20	33	53
Bergeron, Bos	19	34	53
P.Kane, Chi	16	37	53
Wheeler, Wpg	14	39	53
Perry, Ana	31	21	52
Couture, SJ	27	25	52
Marleau, SJ	26	26	52
Iginla, Cal	25	27	52
Seguin, Bos	22	30	52
Purcell, TB	19	33	52
Benn, Dal	18	33	51
Desharnais, Mtl	14	37	51
Franzen, Det	24	26	50
O'Reilly, Col	16	34	50

Not including last night's games

CURLING

CANADIAN MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

TIM HORTONS BRIER

At Saskatoon
All Times Eastern
ROUND-ROBIN STANDINGS

Province (Skip)	W	L
Alberta (K. Koe)	4	0
Northwest Territories/Yukon (J. Koe)	3	1
Ontario (Howard)	3	1
Nova Scotia (J. Murphy)	3	2
Manitoba (R. Fowler)	3	2
British Columbia (Cotter)	2	2
Northern Ontario (Jacobs)	2	2
Saskatchewan (Manners)	2	2
New Brunswick (T. Odishaw)	2	3
Quebec (Desjardins)	1	3
Newfoundland & Labrador (Gushue)	1	3
P.E.I. (Gaudet)	0	5

Yesterday's results
SIXTH DRAW
Northwest Territories/Yukon 9 Saskatchewan 5
Ontario 9 Quebec 8 (extra end)
SEVENTH DRAW
Alberta 8 Prince Edward Island 2
British Columbia 9 Manitoba 5
New Brunswick 8 Northern Ontario 3
Newfoundland & Labrador 10 Nova Scotia 5
EIGHTH DRAW
Alberta vs. Saskatchewan; Newfoundland & Labrador vs. Northwest Territories/Yukon; British Columbia vs. Quebec; Ontario vs. Northern Ontario.
Sunday's results
THIRD DRAW
Alberta 9 New Brunswick 4
Manitoba 8 Newfoundland & Labrador 7
Nova Scotia 5 British Columbia 3
Northern Ontario 8 Prince Edward Island 7 (extra end)
FOURTH DRAW
British Columbia 6 Saskatchewan 5 (extra end)
Northwest Territories/Yukon 8 Northern Ontario 5
Alberta 9 Quebec 2
Ontario 6 Newfoundland & Labrador 5 (extra end)
FIFTH DRAW
Northwest Territories/Yukon 10 Ontario 6 (extra end)
New Brunswick 8 Nova Scotia 6
Manitoba 8 Prince Edward Island 3
Saskatchewan 6 Quebec 5
Today's games
NINTH DRAW, 9:30 A.M.
Manitoba vs. Nova Scotia; Northern Ontario vs. British Columbia; New Brunswick vs. Prince Edward Island; Alberta vs. Newfoundland & Labrador.
DRAW 10, 2:30 P.M.
British Columbia vs. Newfoundland & Labrador; Ontario vs. Saskatchewan; Alberta vs. Northern Ontario; Quebec vs. Northwest Territories/Yukon.
DRAW 11, 7:30 P.M.
Prince Edward Island vs. Northwest Territories/Yukon; New Brunswick vs. Quebec; Manitoba vs. Ontario; Saskatchewan vs. Nova Scotia.
Tomorrow's games
DRAW 12, 9:30 A.M.
Northern Ontario vs. Quebec; Northwest Territories/Yukon vs. Alberta; Newfoundland & Labrador vs. Saskatchewan; British Columbia vs. Ontario.
DRAW 13, 2:30 P.M.
Saskatchewan vs. New Brunswick; Prince Edward Island vs. Ontario; Quebec vs. Nova Scotia; Northwest Territories/Yukon vs. Manitoba.
DRAW 14, 7:30 P.M.
Manitoba vs. Alberta; Nova Scotia vs. Northern Ontario; Prince Edward Island vs. British Columbia; Newfoundland & Labrador vs. New Brunswick.

SOCCER

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

SECOND ROUND

SECOND LEG
All Times Eastern
Today's games
Arsenal (England) vs. AC Milan (Italy), 2:45 p.m.
Benfica (Portugal) vs. Zenit St. Petersburg (Russia), 2:45 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
APOEL Nicosia (Cyprus) vs. Lyon (France), 2:45 p.m.
Barcelona (Spain) vs. Bayer Leverkusen (Germany), 2:45 p.m.
Tuesday, March 13
Bayern Munich (Germany) vs. Basel (Switzerland), 3:45 p.m.
Inter Milan (Italy) vs. Marseille (France), 3:45 p.m.
Wednesday, March 14
Chelsea (England) vs. Napoli (Italy), 3:45 p.m.
Real Madrid (Spain) vs. CSKA Moscow (Russia), 3:45 p.m.

NCAA BASKETBALL

MEN'S AP TOP 25 POLL

Through March 4

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Kentucky (63)	30-1	1,623	1
2. Syracuse (2)	30-1	1,561	2
3. Kansas	26-5	1,482	3
4. North Carolina	27-4	1,442	6
5. Missouri	27-4	1,343	7
6. Duke	26-5	1,262	4
7. Ohio St.	25-6	1,251	10
8. Michigan St.	24-7	1,149	5
9. Marquette	25-6	1,087	8
10. Michigan	23-8	945	13
11. Murray St.	30-1	922	12
12. Baylor	25-6	909	9
13. Georgetown	22-7	873	11
14. Wisconsin	23-8	853	14
15. Indiana	24-7	707	18
16. Wichita St.	27-5	492	15
17. Florida St.	21-9	468	22
18. San Diego St.	24-6	441	21
19. Creighton	28-5	364	25
20. UNLV	25-7	360	17
21. Temple	24-6	343	23
22. Florida	22-9	305	16
23. Notre Dame	21-10	256	20
24. Gonzaga	25-5	170	—
25. Iowa St.	22-9	127	—

Others receiving votes: Saint Mary's (Cal) 88, Louisville 84, Drexel 83, New Mexico 64, Virginia 34, Memphis 13, VCU 6, Vanderbilt 6, Cincinnati 5, Long Beach St. 3, Kansas St. 2, Harvard 1, Saint Louis 1.
Ballots Online: http://tinyurl.com/43u6jr6
Last night's result
At Las Vegas
No. 24 Gonzaga vs. Saint Mary's (Cal)
Tomorrow's game
All Times Eastern
No. 13 Georgetown vs. St. John's or Pittsburgh at Madison Square Garden, 2:30 p.m.

LACROSSE

NLL

WEEK 10
All Times Eastern
Friday's games
Philadelphia at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Calgary at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
Saturday, Mar. 10
Boston at Rochester, 1:05 p.m.
Edmonton at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Washington at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Sunday, Mar. 11
Colorado at Washington, 8 p.m.

TENNIS

ATP MONEY LEADERS

Through March 4
All Figures U.S.

1. Novak Djokovic	$2,460,290
2. Roger Federer	$1,293,375
3. Rafael Nadal	$1,236,485
4. Andy Murray	$711,637
5. David Ferrer	$662,621
6. Juan Martin del Potro	$625,868
7. Tomas Berdych	$447,450
8. Jo-Wilfried Tsonga	$377,368
9. Milos Raonic	$350,461
10. Jurgen Melzer	$349,573
11. Radek Stepanek	$347,932
12. Nicolas Almagro	$309,745
13. Kei Nishikori	$263,021
14. Leander Paes	$250,488
15. Fernando Verdasco	$244,524
16. Mikhail Youzhny	$227,634
17. Philipp Kohlschreiber	$222,446
18. Michael Llodra	$222,427
19. Richard Gasquet	$214,983
20. Gael Monfils	$201,514

WTA MONEY LEADERS

Through March 4

1. Victoria Azarenka	$2,921,950
2. Maria Sharapova	$1,231,350
3. Agnieszka Radwanska	$832,084
4. Kim Clijsters	$492,691
5. Petra Kvitova	$492,201
6. Sara Errani	$417,810
7. Julia Goerges	$414,920
8. Caroline Wozniacki	$388,668
9. Svetlana Kuznetsova	$348,831
10. Vera Zvonareva	$321,976
11. Jelena Jankovic	$297,342
12. Ekaterina Makarova	$267,677
13. Samantha Stosur	$264,157
14. Marion Bartoli	$237,216
15. Daniela Hantuchova	$231,008
16. Roberta Vinci	$223,164
17. Angelique Kerber	$201,482
18. Iveta Benesova	$188,981
19. Zheng Jie	$187,406
20. Li Na	$177,223

GOLF

WORLD RANKING

Through March 4

1. Rory McIlroy	NIR	9.29
2. Luke Donald	ENG	8.97
3. Lee Westwood	ENG	8.19
4. Martin Kaymer	GER	6.02
5. Steve Stricker	USA	5.71
6. Webb Simpson	USA	5.07
7. Jason Day	AUS	5.03
8. Dustin Johnson	USA	5.02
9. Charl Schwartzel	SAF	4.99
10. Hunter Mahan	USA	4.97
11. Adam Scott	AUS	4.96
12. Phil Mickelson	USA	4.96
13. Bill Haas	USA	4.62
14. Matt Kuchar	USA	4.56
15. Graeme McDowell	NIR	4.40
16. Tiger Woods	USA	4.40
17. Nick Watney	USA	4.36
18. Sergio Garcia	ESP	4.09
19. Brandt Snedeker	USA	4.07
20. Keegan Bradley	USA	4.06
21. K.J. Choi	KOR	4.01
22. Justin Rose	ENG	3.71
23. Bubba Watson	USA	3.60
24. Mark Wilson	USA	3.53
25. Ian Poulter	ENG	3.40
26. Paul Casey	ENG	3.38
27. Peter Hanson	SWE	3.34
28. Alvaro Quiros	ESP	3.32
29. David Toms	USA	3.29
30. Thomas Bjorn	DEN	3.28

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Chicago	32	8	.800	—
d-Miami	28	9	.757	2½
Orlando	25	14	.641	6½
d-Philadelphia	22	16	.579	9
Indiana	23	13	.639	7
Atlanta	22	15	.595	8½
Boston	19	17	.528	11
New York	18	19	.486	12½
Milwaukee	14	23	.378	16½
Cleveland	13	23	.361	17
Toronto	12	26	.316	19
Detroit	12	26	.316	19
New Jersey	12	26	.316	19
Washington	8	29	.216	22½
Charlotte	4	31	.114	25½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Oklahoma City	29	8	.784	—
d-San Antonio	25	12	.676	4
d-L.A. Clippers	22	13	.629	6
L.A. Lakers	23	14	.622	6
Memphis	22	15	.595	7
Dallas	22	16	.579	7½
Houston	21	17	.553	8½
Denver	21	17	.553	8½
Minnesota	19	19	.500	10½
Utah	18	19	.486	11
Portland	18	19	.486	11
Phoenix	17	20	.459	12
Golden State	15	20	.429	13
Sacramento	12	25	.324	17
New Orleans	9	28	.243	20

d — division leaders ranked in top four positions regardless of record.

Last night's results
Utah 109 Cleveland 100
Orlando 92 Toronto 88
Golden State 120 Washington 100
Chicago 92 Indiana 72
Dallas at Oklahoma City
L.A. Clippers at Minnesota
Philadelphia at Milwaukee
Sacramento at Denver
New Orleans at Portland
Sunday's results
Boston 115 New York 111 (OT)
L.A. Lakers 93 Miami 83
New Jersey 104 Charlotte 101
Toronto 83 Golden State 75
L.A. Clippers 105 Houston 103 (OT)
Chicago 96 Philadelphia 91
Phoenix 96 Sacramento 88
Denver 99 San Antonio 94
Tonight's games
All Times Eastern
Orlando at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Houston at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
New York at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Utah at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Houston at Toronto, 7 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Washington, 7 p.m.
Boston at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Portland at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at New Jersey, 8 p.m.
New York at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Denver, 9 p.m.
New Orleans at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Memphis at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

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NFL

Welker is Patriots' franchise player

The New England Patriots have placed the franchise tag on Wes Welker. The move means Welker would be paid about $9.5 million US for next season unless the sides work out a long-term deal.

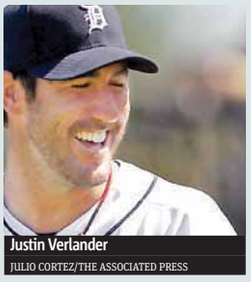
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baseball

Verlander strong against Jays

AL MVP Justin Verlander picked up where he left off last season, pitching two scoreless innings in his spring training debut as the Detroit Tigers beat the Toronto Blue Jays 4-2 Monday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Justin Verlander

JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baseball

Dykstra gets three years

Disgraced ex-New York Mets outfielder Lenny Dykstra was sentenced to three years in a California state prison after pleading no contest to grand theft auto and providing a false financial statement.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Curling

Koe remains undefeated

Alberta's Kevin Koe remained unbeaten at the Canadian men's curling championship Monday. His Calgary foursome improved to 4-0 with an 8-2 win over Mike Gaudet of Prince Edward Island.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL

"Everybody knows those things have been around."

Kyle Turley, former NFL offensive lineman, on bounties to injure opponents, a charge the NFL is currently making against the New Orleans Saints.

'Just enjoy the moment': Koevermans

TFC. Veteran forward offers advice to teammates as they prepare to play before biggest home crowd ever on Wednesday

Toronto FC striker Danny Koevermans has experience playing in front of big crowds in Europe. VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A booming crowd of some 45,000 will cheer on Toronto FC Wednesday in the team's biggest game in franchise history.

Big games and big crowds are nothing new to Danny Koevermans. But for his Toronto teammates who can't say the same, the big Dutch forward has some advice.

"Enjoy," Koevermans said Monday after Toronto held its first practice on the artificial turf at Rogers Centre.

"I think this is going to be the only time that TFC is going to play at the Rogers Centre, in front of 50,000. OK, maybe next season we will get into the (CONCACAF Champions League) quarter-finals as well. But for now, just enjoy the moment.

"It's going to be the biggest home crowd ever, so just enjoy the game and go out there and get a good result."

Toronto FC welcomes David Beckham and the Los Angeles Galaxy to town for the first leg of the CONCACAF Champions League quarter-finals, easily the most important match in the history of a team that has never reached the Major League Soccer post-season.

The game against last year's MLS champion has sold all 43,500 tickets available. Including suites, the Rogers Centre capacity is 45,000.

Koevermans, who played four seasons for PSV Eindhoven of the Dutch league, regularly played in front of 50,000-plus at Amsterdam Arena, home of Ajax.

"I think there's going to be some noise around here, I'm looking forward to it," Koevermans said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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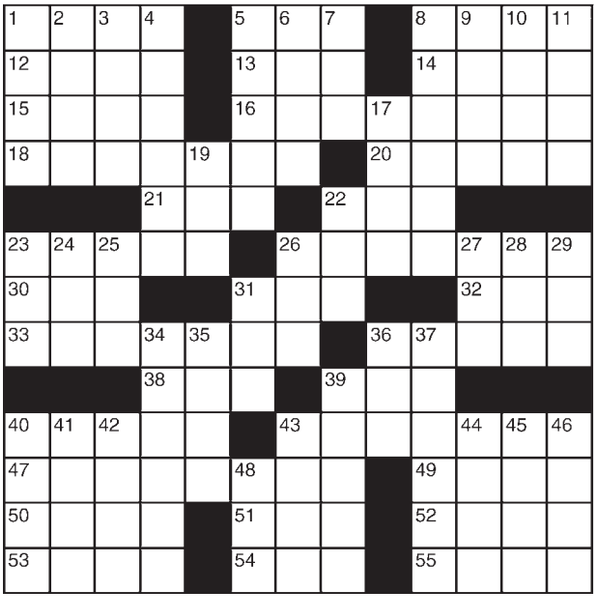
Crossword



Across

1 Perches
5 Recipe meas.
8 Diploma owner, for short
12 Versifier
13 — carte
14 Unusual
15 Basin accessory
16 Seek office, perhaps
18 Arthur's kingdom
20 Pester
21 Family member
22 Aged
23 Steed
26 "Avatar" writer/director
30 "— Got a Secret"
31 Distant
32 Lawyers' org.
33 Mothball material, once
36 Street urchin
38 "— the fields we go"
39 Wager
40 Animal track
43 Fine white linen
47 "Wichita Lineman" singer
49 Relaxation
50 Sheltered
51 Fish eggs
52 Aspen equipment
53 Flex
54 Toss in
55 Exam

Down

1 Detail, for short
2 Primary state
3 Abound
4 Emphasize
5 Mexican entrees
6 Venetian blind part
7 Cooking spray brand
8 Starbucks order
9 Picnic hamperer
10 Jason's ship
11 Say it isn't so
17 Tropical tree
19 Whopper
22 Rowing need
23 Toper's interruption
24 Eggs
25 Sleep phenom
26 Ford or Lincoln
27 Aries
28 Japanese sash
29 Tandoori bread
31 Supporting
34 Exhausted
35 KFC ingredient
36 Jewel
37 Optimally
39 Bundled, as hay
40 Wound cover
41 Wan
42 Portent
43 Lummox
44 Croupier's tool
45 Wife of Osiris
46 "— la vie"
48 Historic period

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Monday's answer

S	E	E	S	■	S	A	P	■	P	A	P	A
T	A	R	A	■	T	I	A	■	A	N	A	G
A	S	I	F	■	E	X	C	A	V	A	T	E
B	E	C	A	L	M	■	T	I	L	T	E	D
■	■	■	R	O	W	S	■	D	O	H	■	■
E	S	T	I	M	A	T	E	■	V	E	N	T
B	A	H	■	B	R	A	V	O	■	M	O	O
B	O	R	G	■	E	N	E	R	V	A	T	E
■	■	I	R	E	■	K	N	E	E	■	■	■
F	A	V	O	R	S	■	N	O	R	M	A	L
E	M	I	G	R	A	T	E	■	B	A	M	A
T	I	N	G	■	G	A	S	■	A	N	E	W
E	D	G	Y	■	A	B	S	■	L	E	N	S

Sudoku

							4	3
		9			6			
3		1	2		5			
2	9			4		5		6
			8		2			
5		4		9			7	1
			3		8	4		2
			9			7		
4	6							

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer

2	6	4	5	7	8	9	3
8	5	3	4	1	9	7	6
9	7	1	3	6	2	5	8
1	9	8	7	2	4	3	5
6	3	2	9	5	1	8	4
7	4	5	8	3	6	2	1
5	1	7	2	4	3	6	9
4	2	9	6	8	5	1	7
3	8	6	1	9	7	4	2

Send a kiss

- **Nami.** This may be no secret, but I have loved you for a very long time. We've recently reconnected and I've never been so optimistic for my future. I hope you feel the same... From This Guy.
- **Team 4.** Dear Team 4, our time together has been the best of my life. When I dream I dream of you, I hope you know that. I hope that we can be together always. From Champion
- **you.** roses are red, violets are blue, waiting to hear from someone, that someone is you! From Blonde little girl.
- **kc.** Im going home now, hope you feel better, remember just dont lookme in thee eye and this will be easier, becasue i know if you do, you'll feel bad for me,, and i already recieved enough of your pity!!! Never wanted pity, wanted love but, well i guess for you and me there's always gunna be a BUT ehhh <3 From jg
- **Dear: Girlfriend in a Coma.** I miss you and I want a real kiss. You're so wet because I've been crying all over your face. Wake up, I want you!! Please Wake Up

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Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. You may not approve of a loved one's actions but neither are you going to condemn them.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. The most important thing today is that you decide what you are going to do. Don't keep changing your mind.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. If you don't feel happy where you are at the moment by all means get up and go some place else.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. Try not to read anything dramatic into what others are saying.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. If a friend makes a suggestion today you must listen.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. The cosmic picture is somewhat uncertain today, so it might be wise to bet only on certainties.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. Who says you have to see things the same way as everyone else? You're a Libra. You're different.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. You can expect some really good things to happen over the next few days. Creatively and romantically you should set your sights high.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. An older relative knows more about a situation than you do, so make sure you listen to, and act on, their advice.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. You will find it difficult to make up your mind about something that would usually take you about three seconds to deal with.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. There are so many opportunities available to you now that you may find it hard deciding which one to take advantage of. Go with the idea that first comes to mind.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. Do what you want to do today and don't worry if those around you think it's a bad idea.

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Caption Contest

"Give me a T"
Phil

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